

RAS TIMES

WINTER 2024 | VOLUME 22-2

THE COUNTRY IN THE CITY
An unprecedented look behind the scenes, putting on the Sydney Royal Easter Show

AND THE WINNERS ARE...
The 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show Competition winners

CELEBRATING TWO DECADES
The RAS Youth Group leadership program

A man and a woman are smiling in a barn filled with white goats. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt and blue jeans, holding a white goat. The woman, on the right, is wearing a dark blue vest over a checkered shirt and light blue jeans. The background shows other goats and the wooden structure of the barn.

THE
COUNTRY
IN THE
CITY



*“I have gathered these stories afar,
In the wind and in the rain.
In the land where the cattle camps are,
On the edge of the plain.”*

ANDREW BARTON (BANJO) PATERSON (1864-1941)



The Country in The City

For two weeks every year, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) hosts the largest annual ticketed event in the Southern Hemisphere—the Sydney Royal Easter Show, where the country literally lands smack-dab in the centre of Sydney's urban business district at Sydney Olympic Park. Surrounded on all sides by hotels, stadiums and businesses, over 13,000 animals representing over 400 different breeds and over 6,000 agricultural exhibitors call Sydney Showground home for the duration. In the iconic District Exhibits, over 2,500 types of fruit, vegetables and grains are put on display comprising the more than 27 tonnes of produce from across all four districts.

Murray Wilton, General Manager, Agriculture & Sydney Royal Easter Show, shared, "The Show allows people from urban and metropolitan areas to experience agriculture, to embrace it and understand it, and to recognise the importance of it. It may be simplistic to say that without farmers we don't eat, but it remains true nonetheless that without

agriculture, we wouldn't have food on our table, and that's pretty important." (For more from Murray Wilton and fascinating insights on what it takes to put on the Show, turn to the feature article, The Country in the City, page 12.)

Whether you exhibited or competed at Show, or whether you came through the gates as a Show-goer, it's important to point out that you have contributed to the support of Australian farmers and their families in rural and regional agricultural communities. It is through your participation that the RAS can pass funding onto the RAS Foundation and to host all the ag competitions at Show and throughout the year.

That is the goal of the Sydney Royal Easter Show—to create a fun and educational opportunity that connects the country and the city in a meaningful way, putting smiles on faces and creating lasting memories. I trust you enjoyed your time in the country—in the city!

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



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

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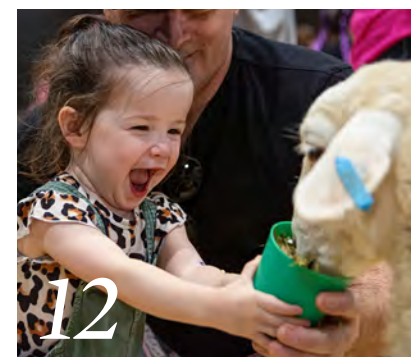
Elizabeth A Nixon JD serves as the Editor of the RAS Times magazine, and as Content Manager for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

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

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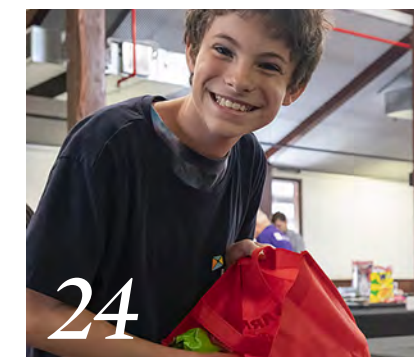
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Vicki Hastrich is a Sydney writer, with a special interest in history and archives. She is a novelist and essayist, and is currently working on a biography. The RAS has been privileged to have Vicki write for the RAS Heritage Centre for 15 years.



Nick Newling is the 2024 winner of the JB Fairfax Award for Regional and Rural Journalism and Communications. Nick has won numerous awards for his journalism at UTS, where he is studying a Bachelor of Communications in Journalism and Social & Political Sciences.

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in the Charley dining room to thank them for giving us such a wonderful experience on every visit.

There were so many highlights of the Show for me, it is hard to mention some without taking 12 days to list them all, but in no particular order, I enjoyed the official opening and having His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, Governor-General of Australia and Mrs Hurley with us for such a special occasion. The citizenship ceremony in the amphitheatre attended by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson, was a wonderful occasion and I encourage everyone to make the time to attend

The 2024 Show was a huge success, it was an honour and a pleasure to lead our organisation this year. We were certainly blessed to have 12 days of great Show weather for our celebration of Country and City together.

I am glad to have met many of our members. From the AGM and members preview to the President's high tea, the official opening ceremony, seeing people in the Charley dining room and around the grounds. It was always a joy to meet people and hear their stories and talk about the Show.

There were many excellent innovations in RAS Membership services this year, and on behalf of all members I would like to congratulate the RAS Membership team on their hard work and dedication. I have also written to all involved in the presentation of the food and service

this special event next year. Our President's Medal dinner truly was a night of nights showcasing the best of the best of Australia's sustainable food producers.

During the show I was even reminded of the enormous importance of everyone who joins together to stage our huge event; our stewards, judges, volunteer green army, our wonderful staff and Council and their families, and many more quiet contributors who do their bit.

We have just had our first meetings post-Show and by the looks of things 2025 will be even more fantastic. Now to concentrate on our upcoming Wine, Dairy and Fine Foods events.

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

Our President's Medal dinner truly was a night of nights showcasing the best of the best of Australia's sustainable food producers.



ON THE COVER

Sandy & Julie Cameron, Meredith Dairy. Finalists: 17th Annual President's Medal

Sandy & Julie both grew up on farms and always wanted to be farmers, turning over the soil, growing food and raising animals. Sandy trained as a vet and Julie worked as an intensive care nurse, but they took the plunge and left their jobs to work as full-time farmers in Meredith, VIC.

In 1991 traditional farming was in turmoil and the price of woollen farming commodities became uncertain. To survive on the land, Sandy and Julie knew they needed to innovate and so decided to milk sheep and then also goats to make cheese and yoghurt. With that, Meredith Dairy was born.

Determined to pass on to the next generation an economically viable and environmentally sustainable business that is part of a thriving rural community, Sandy and Julie invest in technology, sustainable farming methods and a high level of environmental management.

They are quoted as saying, "We will tread lightly on this earth, allowing the environment and our community to flourish."

To learn more about the beauty and innovation of Meredith Dairy, visit: meredithdairy.com



Help keep farmers farming

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW invests over \$11 million a year to support Aussie farmers.

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11-22 April 2025
eastershow.com.au





spotlight article celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the RAS Youth Group on page 20.

New South Wales is Australia's largest consumer market with 81% of NSW's landmass devoted to agriculture, producing \$15.1 billion of agricultural food each year. This significant role that NSW plays in Australian agriculture is part of our "why".

The competitions, exhibitions, events, education and fund-raising initiatives of the RAS drive the future of the award-quality, innovation and sustainability of Australian agriculture. It is a mission that all our Councillors,



Sydney Royal Canine Hero Award, Service Dog

The 2024 Sydney Royal Canine Hero Award for Service Dogs was awarded to Vespa, a biosecurity-sniffing labrador.

NSW Premier, the Honourable Christopher Minns, MP, had this to say about the award on social media:

"Over the weekend, one of our most accomplished canines was honoured at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Vespa is a black labrador from Sydney, and last year, she sniffed out a record 1,300 biosecurity risk items at Sydney's International Airport and mail centre. Many of those items could have contained foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever, which could have cost our economy billions.

Surely, this has earned her some extra belly rubs. Thank you, Vespa!"

After all the months of anticipation and planning, it's hard to realise that we are now on the "other side" of the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show. It was a great success and the halls here are still buzzing with talk of how grateful we are for good attendance, despite it being a non-school holiday Show, and of course, the good weather.

The Show is our pinnacle event, generating not only funding but also connections, relationships and opportunities that continue year-round, and through which we provide support to regional and rural communities across the State.

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) prioritises support for agricultural leadership, community engagement, education and training. The RAS has been actively raising up the next generation of agriculture leaders for more than two decades, which you can read about in the

Stewards, Officials, staff, volunteers and members hold dear to their hearts and serve with passion, as evidenced by all that it takes to put on Australia's largest, annual ticketed event.

To everyone who joined me in the preparation and delivery of this year's Show, I want to express my sincere thanks. We couldn't do it without you.

And to everyone who exhibited and attended, many of you continuing generational family traditions and legacies, thank you for celebrating Australian culture with us.

I look forward to all that we will continue to do this year through Sydney Royal competitions, education programs, Sydney Showground events and Foundation efforts.

Brock Gilmour, Chief Executive, Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

The Show is our pinnacle event, generating not only funding but also connections, relationships and opportunities that continue year-round, and through which we provide support to regional and rural communities across the State.



That's a Wrap

The curtains have closed on the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show and the stats are in. Here are fun facts from this year's Show:

COMPETITIONS & EXHIBITORS:

- There were more than 23,600 entries across Agriculture competitions, with
- Over 6,000 agriculture exhibitors, and
- Over 400 different breeds of animals at the Show.

AWARDING:

- >13,400 ribbons,
- 1,600 trophies, medallions and special prizes, and
- 265 Perpetual Trophies.

INTERNATIONAL JUDGES:

We hosted 14 International Judges this year, from New Zealand, South Africa, Singapore, the UK, Canada, Northern Ireland, Finland and Switzerland.

WOODCHOP:

We celebrated 125 years since Woodchop first competed at Sydney Royal Easter Shows, and saw:

- 2 brand new Women's World Championship titles with

- Women making up a record number of 20% of woodchoppers on the grounds.

NEW ENTERTAINMENT & COMPETITIONS AT THIS YEAR'S SHOW INCLUDED:

- The instant favourite Sydney Royal Easter Egg Hunt,
- The Easter Bunny in Members Stand,
- Fancy Dress Calf,
- Working Dog & Ducks,
- Bison Stampede "Battle in the Saddle",
- Pig & Pinot event at the Sydney Royal Stud Pig Auction,
- HLS Trick Riding team,
- Oodles on Show, and
- "Guess the weight" of Brock the Boar.

AROUND-THE-GROUNDS STATS:

Showjumping Horse Competitions saw 7000 jumps jumped, **Flower & Garden** boasted 15,000 stems in shops and competitions, while **District Exhibits** displayed 2,500

types of fruit and vegetables, with 27 tonnes of produce across all four exhibits.

- 5 tonnes of HONEY were sold,
- 25,000 litres of MILK were milked in the Working Dairy,
- 100 tonnes of POTATOES became chips on a stick,
- Big Bush BBQ sold close to 12,000 SAUSAGE SANGAS,
- Hephner the Alpaca took between 500-600 SELFIES with Showgoers — each day,
- the CWA made >38,000 from-scratch SCONES, on-site,
- 12,000 EASTER EGGS were hunted, and
- 300 CHICKS were hatched – but not from the same eggs!

OVER AT GONG CHA CARNIVAL:

- The FERRIS WHEEL took Showgoers for sightseeing turns, going around 20,000 each day.
- The brand-new WARRIOR and JOKER rides spun adrenaline junkies 6,500 times combined at >3.5Gs! ●



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To Our Valued Members

We value you because your membership represents your heartfelt support and willingness to contribute financially to the mission of the RAS, to forge the future of Australian Agriculture.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership Renewals will be sent in September.

Membership entitles you to all RAS membership benefits and includes unlimited access to the 2025 Sydney Royal Easter Show, 11 – 22 April 2025.

If you do not receive your renewal notice by the end of September 2024, please contact the membership team 02 9704 1144.

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

- NRL games at Accor Stadium (excluding Giants v Swans),
- The Australian Turf Club,
- AFL reciprocal rights at the Sydney Cricket Ground, and
- The Departure Lounge, with the Mantra Group

UPCOMING ROYAL SHOWS:

The EKKA, Brisbane
10-18 August 2024

Royal Adelaide Show
31 August – 8 September 2024

Perth Royal Show
21-28 September 2024

Royal Melbourne Show
26 September – 6 October 2024

Royal Hobart Show
24 – 26 October 2024

Keep an eye out for Membership e-newsletters & your chance to win tickets to upcoming events at Sydney Showground.



The Country in The City

An unprecedented look behind the scenes, putting on the Sydney Royal Easter Show

The Sydney Royal Easter Show is a national treasure—an iconic event. For generations, Australians have considered the annual Show to be part of the fabric of the culture of Australia. Many families include it as a central part of their holidays and family celebrations. It is a place where memories are made and are relived generation to generation. The Show is a place of wonder and excitement, a place for

business and industry benchmarking, a place for learning and celebrating. It is all these things and so much more.

When it comes to talking about putting on the Sydney Royal Easter Show, there are so many facets to what the Show is. In the big-picture view, it is the largest annual ticketed event in the southern hemisphere that generates significant economic and social impact for the entire State. At the micro level there are the joy and smiles it brings to the faces of those who come.

The central appeal is its agriculture focus. We often use the simple phrase “bringing the country to the city” but there is so much depth and so many layers behind that one simple saying.

THE COUNTRY IN THE CITY

Did you know that putting on the annual Show, brings—to the middle of Sydney’s urban business district at Sydney Olympic Park—the equivalent of a country town of 50,000 people, with everything a country



town should have: farmers, animals, a working dairy, livestock auctions, veterinarians, ambulance, fire, police, waste disposal, restaurants, bars, a radio station, a history museum, child care facilities, education classes for school students, public amenities, accommodations to sleep 1000 people on-site every night of show, a Council, President, Honorary Mayor, even Easter church services, and the list goes on.

Add to that everything that a city audience is looking for: a farmyard petting zoo, multiple shopping districts, food trucks, souvenirs and carnival rides. And that’s not even touching the entertainment, which is massive in scale. For instance, the 2024 Show boasted a total of 156 performance groups, comprised of 7,323 performers. And fireworks, we can’t forget the fantastic fireworks that explode their brilliance in the night sky 12 nights in a row!

Central to all the planning is the understanding that the Show is not just an event, it is part of people’s lives. It fills dinner table conversations and is a must-attend

event that people look forward to every year, with many children’s money boxes used to save up for going to the Show.

It’s an enormous responsibility, there is a responsibility to the exhibitors, to the competitors and of course, to the Show-goers who come every year. There’s a very fine balance to strike between staying fresh and relevant so new memories can be made, whilst also remaining true to older generations who have fond memories of the way the Show used to be and the things they want to share with their children and grandchildren.

THE LOGISTICS

It’s a tremendous undertaking, and that’s putting it mildly. Before the 800,000 plus guests can spill through the gates, the entire Sydney Showground precinct is physically fenced off and locked down. From Olympic Blvd to Australia Ave and P6 Parking with stretch over to the stadiums, it’s all enclosed to become the official footprint of the Show.

Murray Wilton, General Manager, Agriculture and Sydney Royal Easter Show, is quick to point out, “There are plans and drawings and images and ideas collated, and while everything looks good on paper and in theory, it’s not until it is physically built that you see confirmation of whether the decisions you made along the way were right or wrong. The build-out of the Show requires enormous flexibility with changes often being made on the fly for any number of reasons.”

Once fencing is up, it’s a fleeting 14-day countdown to build and fit out more than a dozen large pavilions, including the massive Dome, prepare an additional 14 animal pavilions for the more than 13,000 animals that will call the Showgrounds home, and prepare for the more than 6,000 agricultural exhibitors. On top of that, carnival brings in carousels, multiple ferris wheels and jaw-dropping, breath-taking rides that pull in excess of 4Gs. Thousands upon thousands of showbags are delivered, not to mention the pop-up venues, food trucks and mobile outlets.

The large scope of work is mind



boggling. It may help to think about just one pavilion to understand all that's involved. When the public arrive on site, they see a pavilion with carpets, lighting and plumbing all hooked up, filled with vendors and exhibitors. But, incredibly, that pavilion was a vast, open cavernous space just two weeks prior to Show.

Of course, there is a method to the madness. It is imperative that the first installation in a pavilion is the overhead signage. Then the lighting goes in, sound systems and speakers, and anything else hung from the ceilings. Next carpets and flooring. Then the infrastructure of each individual stand—the electrics, plumbing, then finishing touches.

It can be a simple thing, something outside of anyone's control, that could throw a serious spanner in the works because of the flow-on, domino effect at every stage. If a sign is delivered late, there's a knock-on effect; if the weather is bad, if there's equipment failure, or even a traffic jam on the M4 delaying trucks delivering needed items, then the cascade of delays can spell disaster.

Consider that the Arts & Crafts pavilion alone brings in over 5,000

exhibits personally delivered by the artists, the Flower and Garden pavilion displays more than 15,000 stems, and in the iconic District Exhibits, more than 27 tonnes of produce are displayed in creative installations unlike anything anywhere else in the world.

In 2024, the bump-in process was so smooth that it was almost eerie and some were waiting for the “other foot to drop”, but it was a very seamless Show from beginning to end. That's entirely due to the experience and expertise of everyone involved. From RAS Councillors to staff and the over 500 volunteers, construction and equipment crews, even exhibitors setting up shop.

“It is remarkable that it falls into place at all, and it is because of the staff and expertise on hand that it even happens. I would be hard stretched to find another team with the flexibility, patience and an attitude of always wanting to achieve the best. Delivering the Show for this team is not just a job, it's their passion. They're proud of what they do, and this is evident to all who come through the front gate.” Murray Wilton, General Manager.

Central to it all, the heart behind every decision is very simple, and that is to keep agriculture front of mind, no matter what decision is being made, everything must point back to ag.

WHY DO IT? WHY PUT ON THE SHOW?

The Sydney Royal Easter show is important to many different people for many different reasons.

Exhibitors and competitors who bring their livestock to compete in Sydney Royal competitions come to the Show sometimes purely for the historical tradition. There is also regional pride and generational passion, a commitment to show livestock and crops the way their fathers and grandfathers did.

For those lucky enough to win, there is also a financial return as a result of those blue ribbons—from cash prizes to increased auction sales and improved market standing. With insight and feedback from judges, there is also confirmation that, as producers, they're doing the right thing in their farming practises. The competitions drive excellence and innovation. There is business networking and professional connections to be made.

For those living in rural and remote areas of the country, there are mental health benefits to coming to Show and to getting off the farm where isolation is one of the struggles of on-farm life. They may all be fierce competitors in the ring during the day, but at night these competitors are best of mates, enjoying a beer and a steak together, catching up with old friends that they don't normally get to see, like an annual holiday.

For our older Show-goers, so many parents and grandparents want their young family members to relive the good and memorable experiences they had as a child. And for people from the city and metropolitan areas, it's a unique experience to see farm animals up close. The show is where many city children hear a real cow's moo for the first time, they get to hold a duckling, see a pavilion full of dozens of different kinds of chickens, watch a cow being milked and pat a piglet.

Without people coming through the gates every year, the RAS would not be able to subsidise regional and rural farming communities in New South Wales, which it has been doing to the tune of \$11 million per annum.

The beauty and heart of the Show is that it allows people to experience agriculture, to embrace it, to understand it, and to recognise the importance of it. While it may be simplistic to say that without farmers we don't eat, it remains true, nonetheless. Without agriculture, we would not have food on our table or cloth for clothes on our backs, and that's important. Because food is so freely available, we often do not reflect on where it comes from or what it takes to get it to our kitchen table—it's actually a very tough process.

The Show gives people the opportunity to look in through a window at agriculture, to gain a respect for farmers, and hopefully to walk away with a deeper understanding that when it comes to agriculture, it's in every aspect of our daily lives. It may not be that the average person takes food and clothing for granted, but there is often a general lack of understanding about what it takes to produce them.

Wearing his heart on his sleeve, Murray Wilton shared his why, “We don't want people to walk away with a brochure about agriculture, but rather to walk away feeling all that we feel. This is why we do what we do, we have a deep emotional caring, the kind of emotional attachment that generates respect for those who make our way of life possible. This is why the RAS carries the responsibility to provide this event every year, and it is why we inject the amount of money we do into agricultural competitions and into regional and rural farming communities. This is also why the RAS must remain relevant because otherwise the understanding, the appreciation, the value of agriculture may be lost.”

It could never be said that farmers think of themselves as better than anyone else, but due to distance, people outside of rural communities often forget the basics, and it is those very basics that keep their lives intact and running.

SHOW-GOERS MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE

While the Sydney Royal Easter Show brings to the public's attention the need to recognise our country counterparts, it is equally true that the RAS attaches great importance and value to every person who buys a ticket and comes through the front gates, because without them the mission could not be accomplished.

It is entirely accurate to say that buying a ticket to the Sydney



Royal Easter Show is an investment in Australian agriculture, and that is an investment in each of our futures.

The cost of every ticket supplements the cost of Sydney Royal competitions, both at the Show and throughout the year, and is money passed on to the RAS Foundation to fund rural student scholarships and rural community grants.

Why go through the logistical machinations every year to put on the largest annual ticketed event in the Southern Hemisphere? Because doing so provides the opportunity for country and city cousins to come together and maintain connection, bridging the ever-widening gap between country and city.

How is that gap best bridged? Consider this story that Murray Wilton shared from Day 3 of this year's Show:

“One father I met in Farmyard Nursery was sitting with his young daughter who was holding a baby lamb on her lap. He laughingly told me, “I've been stuck here with her like this for an hour and a half. She won't let that

baby lamb go.” Then he shrugged his shoulders with a big smile on his face and said, “But this is why we're here, because this is what I did as a kid, and this is the memory I have of the Easter Show, and I want my daughter to have the same experience, the same wonderful memories.”

The RAS, its Councillors, Committees, Chairs, Judges, Stewards, Executive Management Team, staff, members and volunteers—as a united association—are the creators, architects and builders of a new generation of memories. We cannot underestimate the impact of what it is that we do. Very few organisations have the responsibility to create memories for generations of families, memories that become traditions, and which impact industry and economies.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show, in its most simple description, creates opportunity for smiles, laughter and memories, reprised through every generation, uniting suburb to region and city to county, remarkably impacting the culture of our nation and driving our mutual prosperity forward. ●



THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW WOULD LIKE TO
THANK ITS 2024 SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL COMMUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA.

GRAND CHAMPION

STRATEGIC SPONSORS



CHAMPION



BLUE RIBBON



RED RIBBON



2024 Champions of the RAS

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

Honoured at a special awards ceremony event hosted at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, the 2024 Champions of the RAS and the areas in which they serve, are:

SERVING AGRICULTURE:
MISS CATE BURTON
(Brookvale NSW)
Cate Burton has officiated as a Judge for the National Honey Show since 2014. She has been a dedicated judge in the Beeswax, Candles & Wax Moulds classes. Cate's expertise has also assisted the section by providing advice on wax classes helping to grow the Honey competition.

SERVING ALPACA:
MR GARY WORTHY AND MRS

GLADYS WORTHY (Vincentia NSW)
Gary & Gladys Worthy have been the backbone of Walk an Alpaca since it first began some 10 years ago. Each year, they bring with them as many as 10 students from their local Vincentia High School (Nowra) who participate in the Alpaca Youth Classes.

SERVING ARTS & CRAFTS:
MRS SILVIA GUERRERA
(Cabramatta West NSW)
For the past 19 years, Silvia Guerrero has been an enthusiastic exhibitor in leatherwork. Her remarkable skill culminated in the prestigious Standard of Excellence award in 2017. Silvia wears multiple hats, excelling as an exhibitor, teacher and Guild Member, and goes

beyond these roles by making an annual return to the Arts & Crafts Pavilion for demonstrations.

SERVING CATTLE:
MS LEEANNE TAME
(Narellan Vale NSW)
Leeanne Tame has been stewarding in the Cattle section across all the competitions, Beef, Steers and Dairy, since 2011, and is extremely passionate and dedicated. Leeanne's commitment and willingness to assist in a multitude of roles is highly commendable.

SERVING DOMESTIC ANIMALS:
MRS DEIRDRE CROFTS
(Paxton NSW)
Deidre Crofts has been involved with the



Show as a Steward since 1998. Only the third woman to officiate as a Steward in the Dog section, Deidre travels some distance daily during the Show, taking annual leave from her job as a Welfare Officer for Dogs NSW. An All-Breeds Judge and a very successful exhibitor, Deidre forgoes the opportunity to show her own dogs so that others can enjoy the experience.

SERVING FINE FOOD:
MR IAN HUNTLEY (Artarmon NSW)
Ian Huntley started judging with the RAS in 2017 as an Associate Judge and was promoted to Chair of Judges of the Professional Bakery Competition in 2018. A trained pastry chef with his own business, Inter Desserts, Ian also lectures at Le Cordon Bleu Australia, and has assisted with judging of the Specialty Foods and Oil & Olive Competitions.

SERVING GOAT:
MR KEN HORLEY (Yeoval NSW)
Ken Horley demonstrated his passion and dedication to Goat when, in 2023, upon hearing that there was no Dairy Goat competition going ahead, he realised that there would be an empty pavilion for the first 4 days of the Show. He made the offer to bring a team of dairy goats for display and then sought approval from Yeoval Central School and Peak Hill Central School, where he is the Ag teacher, to bring a team of beautiful dairy goats and school students to care for them.

SERVING HORSE:
MR GRAEME WATTS (Hattonvale QLD)
Graeme Watts has been involved as a course builder for Showjumping competitions in the NSW Country Show movement for more than 40 years. He first worked at the RAS as Assistant Showjumping Course Builder in the early 1980's and has served as a judge on several occasions. In 2022, in celebration of the RAS Bicentenary, Graeme, along with Showjump judge Mr Ho of Singapore, presented the RAS with a specially designed jump to mark the occasion.

SERVING HORTICULTURE:
MS JUDITH LITTLE (McLean NSW)
Judith Little has officiated and competed in the Flower & Garden section since 2007 and has provided extra support to the decorative competitions and committee over and above her official capacity. Judith gives of both her time and experience every day of Show presenting the very popular stage activity 'Fun Floral Challenge', a main stay of the Stage Show program.

SERVING PIG:
MR GEOFF RILEY (Currabubula NSW)
Geoff Riley was first introduced to showing at Moore Park with his father, who exhibited a wide variety of stock, including Clydesdales and Pigs, for many years. After his father's retirement in 1994, Geoff continued showing with

Wessex Saddlebacks for another seven years. Geoff has continued coming to Show, dedicating two weeks holidays for the past 14 years to stewarding the Pig Section. He has been both Chief Inspector and Chief Steward.

SERVING POULTRY & PIGEON:
MR MICHAEL PEEL (Theresa Park NSW)
Michael Peel has been a valued member of the Poultry Section for over 40 years, as an Exhibitor and an Official, as well as a key supporter of the Waterfowl Section at the Show. Michael generously donates the Champion Goose or Gander Award and exhibits large numbers of quality geese and waterfowl annually because he sees value in having a strong display for public engagement and ensuring prosperity of future smaller-scale poultry keeping.

SERVING SHEEP & WOOL:
MR RODNEY KENT (Delungra NSW)
Rodney Kent has been a valued contributor to the Sheep & Wool Section for 11 years, and Chief Steward for the Merino Section for the last six. He is always happy to help Staff, Councillors and Exhibitors and is vital to the smooth running of the Merino Section. He is extremely knowledgeable about the Section and is a pleasure to work with.

SERVING VETERINARY:
DR EDWINA WILKES (Pascoe Vale VIC)
Dr Edwina Wilkes is a valued member of the RAS Veterinary Program, providing veterinary advice and feedback to the RAS especially regarding drug testing and equine matters. Dr Wilkes has held several positions with the RAS Veterinary Team, including heading up and running the drug testing program. She has completed her Pharmacology Degree and is a Medicine Specialist, Equine, providing exceptional care for horses at the Show.

SERVING WINE:
MR ROB HIRST (Killara NSW)
Having enjoyed a close relationship with the RAS for many years, Rob Hirst became an industry advisor to the RAS Wine Committee from 2013-2022. Rob established the Tucker Seabrook Trophy for the Best Wine of Show at the Sydney Royal Wine Show, is the founder of Australia's Wine List of the Year, and in 2015 was awarded the Wine Communicators of Australia, Legend of the Vine. His knowledge, network and experience have been invaluable to the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. ●



Making Friends with Food

RAS Foundation Fundraising Success

As the philanthropic arm of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS), the RAS Foundation engages in its primary fundraising events at the annual Sydney Royal Easter Shows through its Charity Brunch, raffle and silent auction.

This year's Charity Brunch selected the not-for-profit organisation "Making Friends with Food, by The Root Cause™" to be the beneficiary of the 2024 fundraising initiative. Making Friends with Food is an innovative, award winning food literacy partnership for Australian schools, designed to address the alarming rates of childhood illness. The programme is carefully designed to empower students, parents and teachers to know how to make better food choices that enhance mood, behaviour and overall well-being.

Belinda Smith, Founder of The Root Cause, shared with Charity Brunch

attendees that the program was developed to encourage better food choices through education, citing these facts: 44% of Australian children have at least one chronic health condition, one in four are overweight or obese, and 32% of primary school children report symptoms of anxiety and adult-onset conditions like Type 2 Diabetes.

With only 6% of Australian children eating enough fruit and vegetables, they are consuming more sugar in a single lunch than they're meant to have in an entire day. Belinda shared how teachers are at a breaking point with children unable to focus or concentrate.

Results of the Making Friends with Food prevention programme include teachers seeing children choosing less junk and "party" food, and eating more vegetables and fruit every day.

The program has already empowered over 60,000 young participants and has been implemented across 287 schools,

with The Root Cause on a mission to reach even more schools, students and their families.

RAS Foundation Manager, Cecilia Logan said she couldn't be happier with the outcome of the 2024 Charity Brunch event.

“Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we almost doubled our goal of \$25,000, raising over \$43,000.”

With these funds in hand, The Root Cause will be able to transform children's health across the regions of Narrabri, Wee Waa and Moree where approximately 2,000 children will benefit, gaining improved food literacy and come to understand the profound impact it has on their life-long health.

“Food is foundational to wellbeing. Our goal is to make food a fun experiment and to empower children to build lifelong nourishing friendships with a wide variety of food so they can live a life free of chronic illness.” Belinda Smith, Founder, The Root Cause. ●

To learn more about the RAS Foundation and the various ways to support regional and rural Australia, visit www.rasf.org.au.



Celebrating Two Decades of RAS Youth

The RAS Youth Group identifies the next generation of youth involved in agriculture and engages them for long term association with the RAS and the broader ag industry. It is a forum for both social and professional networking among rural and urban youth who are passionate about agriculture.

Twenty years ago, the RAS recognised the potential among its younger members who were exhibiting and competing at local and Sydney Royal shows, but for whom the road forward within ag was not always a first choice. Many students were leaving regional and rural areas to go to the city to attend university, then never return to either the family farm or to agriculture itself. The RAS leadership determined to find a way to engage, position and

empower the younger members so that they could grow into governance positions within the RAS and become leaders within the many agriculture sectors.

What began as an Easter Show initiative for a simple Ute Show in 2004, has grown into a vibrant group of passionate young professionals who aim to educate, entertain and engage rural and urban youth through RAS

programs, events and competitions.

The Youth Group was initiated under the direction of Robyn Clubb AM, who has many “firsts” in her RAS tenure. Robyn was the first woman elected to RAS Council in 1993, and was the first Chair of the RAS Foundation, a position she continues to serve in today. She shared,

“The original vision for the RAS Youth Group was to involve our younger

members in the longer term, with the potential to be RAS Councillors. In doing so, it has become a forum to connect the next-gen of youth in ag to RAS Councillors who provide networking, mentoring and industry career opportunities. It has been a great success, and I am thrilled with the calibre of youth still engaged.”

Robyn isn't the only current RAS Councillor who was involved with the inaugural RAS Youth Group. John Bennett OAM, current RAS President, began his association with the RAS in the Youth Group. President Bennett said this,

“I am very proud to have been an inaugural member of the RAS Youth Group and to now have the great honour of being President. There is no question my time on the Youth Group laid the foundations for the rest of my time at the RAS.”

President Bennett also commented that the RAS Youth Group “must always evolve to stay relevant and worthwhile for all concerned. I know this is a major focus of all who are involved with the Youth Group currently.”

Two of those current members are Sarah Stanbury and Andrew Horne, who represent the two ends of the spectrum of Youth Group members: Sarah, a city girl from Sydney with no connection to agriculture, and Andrew, a country boy with deep roots in Southern Riverina.

A CITY GIRL

Sarah Stanbury grew up with no connection to agriculture except for friendships she made with boarders attending her high school. Through these school friendships, Sarah became aware of her disconnect with rural farming communities and recognised that her experience is true for most consumers. Sarah saw the Youth Group as a great place to open networks that could bridge the gap between country and city communities. Sarah, who now serves as Chair of the RAS Youth Group, believes:

“The most effective way forward is to connect urban and rural youth together so that we can remove the city-country barrier, from both sides.”

A COUNTRY BOY

Andrew Horne, the country boy from Berrigan in the Southern Riverina, grew up going to local shows. He was involved



in Young Judges competitions, or Junior Judging as it was called at that time, and was the Sydney Royal 2007 NSW State Champion for Junior Judging, Merino Fleece.

“The youth initiatives at the Sydney Royal Easter Show provide an opportunity to show kids the reality of where food comes from—beyond supermarket shelves.”

Andrew's experience growing up on his family farm allowed him to see the practical application of farming, like seeing the wool they grew made into something tangible, a product like woollen clothing. He believes in the importance of sharing this understanding with the next generation.

COLLEGIALITY AND CAREER NETWORKING

It is the collegiality, business and industry networking, and life-long friendships that both Sarah & Andrew say are personal benefits they value.

All RAS Youth Group members have the opportunity to engage with RAS Councillors. Members can collaborate with Councillors who work in a similar field as their own interests, such as a particular industry sector or non-profits and government organisations. From these connections, members can develop their own desired, personal outcome and

map out a career path in association with the RAS.

When asked about the long-term effectiveness of those connections, Andrew said, “It is important to look at the people who have come through the Youth Group over the past 20 years and see where they are now. That is the best litmus test of how being part of the Youth Group contributes to career and involvement with the RAS.

He is right. Many RAS Councillors have come through the Youth Group, just as the original intent envisioned, enjoying friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Robyn Clubb and John Bennett, inaugural members of that Youth Group 20 years ago, currently serving as RAS Foundation Chair and RAS President respectively, are a poignant confirmation of the success of the RAS Youth Group.

The RAS remains committed to driving the future of Australian agriculture. A big part of that is the RAS Youth Group, which is poised to continue its mission to engage, position and empower young RAS members as future leaders. ●

RAS YOUTH GROUP

To connect with the RAS Youth Group, check out





2024 SRES IN REVIEW





Showbag Launch Day

The very special team of children who 'test' our Showbags.

Her eyes are bright and they open wide as soon as she is wheeled through the doors. Greeted by balloons and jugglers, off to the side is a real-life alpaca waiting to be patted. Her joyful smile and small squeal of delight belies her normal every day, but the tubes in her nose and the oxygen tank attached to her wheelchair are a constant reminder—Jenny, at just 7 years of age, is battling leukemia, a fight that she might not win.

But today, Jenny and her parents, along with 50 other similarly situated families, are putting their routine of tests, screens, medications and challenging prognoses aside for something much more exciting.

They have been invited by the RAS to form this year's annual cohort of the RAS Special Department of Quality Control—Showbag Division.

Children who are battling illness and injury are too immune compromised to attend Show, but a day out of hospital, for those

who are cleared by doctors to do so, come with so much joy and anticipation that it's hard to realise most of them are fighting for their lives.

Today, Jenny's day is not about needles and tubes or nurses and sombre faces. Today, Jenny will get to feel the warm breath of a pony on her hand as he sniffs out a treat, she will have a soft, fluffy labrador puppy plopped on her lap to hold while his cold nose tickles her arm. Today, Jenny will take a selfie with an alpaca and have her face painted with

butterflies and flowers.

It's a week before the Sydney Royal Easter Show opens its gates to upwards of 800,000 people, and something very important remains to be done—a final "Quality Control" check of the more than 400 Showbags that will be on offer during Show.

Each year the RAS invites children from The Children's Hospital at Westmead, and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, to come and 'test' the showbags and, in return, they get to enjoy a mini-show experience complete with animals, entertainment and food.

It's an amazing sight, a small pavilion with long tables stretching out across the room, filled with the contents of over 400 showbags—all up for grabs! The doors are opened and the children with their parents and siblings all spill into the room, rushing to the long tables, poring over everything. Their big eyes take in all the contents of the bags as they choose their four favourite showbags to take home—for free of course.

Jenny is immediately drawn to the bright pink Princess bag, which is so big, it's almost as tall as she is. Laughter fills the room. Parents try to slow their kids down and stop them from grabbing, but it's no use.

In fact, the relief and happiness on the parents' faces as they watch their children having a few hours of fun away from the medical environments they are living in, are a big part of the "why" this special cohort is formed every year.

This annual initiative is overseen by Shane McGrath, Senior Manager of Operations & Product Development at the RAS, who says, "The Showbag Launch is without doubt one of the most exciting days on the calendar for us. Each year we engage with this special team who give the showbags their tick of approval and get to take their favourites home. These kids unfortunately can't always enjoy a great day at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and we want to do something special for them, put smiles on faces and create lasting memories."

Officially known as Showbag Launch Day, the event also has strong media attendance and is usually featured on every major television channel, highlighting not only the Showbags that will be on offer, but also the very special team of children who 'test' those Showbags.



For the staff who put on the Showbag Launch, the joy of children giggling is very moving. It's likely that the children who attend this year, will not still be with us for next year's Show, and that is a compelling reason to go above and beyond, this year and every year.

By the end of lunch, Jenny's smile hasn't faded at all, but you can tell from her eyes that she's already getting tired. Her doctors and parents can't say for certain what the future holds, but for today, there are ponies and puppies, show bags and laughter. ●

THE RAS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE ORGANISATIONS WHO PARTNER WITH US:

- The Children's Hospital at Westmead
- Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick
- Camp Quality
- Royal Far West
- Bear Cottage

Thank you also to these Show Exhibitors who generously provide entertainment and food:

- Face painting by Good Fairies
- Balloon Twisting by Matt Falloon
- Balloon twisting and balloon decorations by JayJay the Balloon Guy
- Hephner the Instagram Famous Alpaca by Fletchers Ark
- Roving Entertainment (Juggling, Balloon bikes and Magic) by Beeswax & Bottlecaps
- Wally's Hot Dogs, Sushi Hub, Dole Whip, The Fresh Lemonade, Cheese on a Stick, Chip on a Stick.

Jenny is a representative compilation of all the children who attend, to protect their private journeys.



21 SEPTEMBER 2024
HOWIE PAVILION & LAWN
SYDNEY
SHOWGROUND

Sip the afternoon away

Spend an afternoon with friends tasting 1000+ medal winning wines, beer & cider, plus Sydney Royal award-winning produce at the Grape, Grain and Graze Festival.

Saturday, 21 September 2024
Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park

Be the first to know! Get access to early bird tickets by signing up to be notified when they are on sale here:
www.rasnsr.com.au/events/grape-grain-graze/

Celebrating excellence in Australian agriculture



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Gentleness on the Land: Pecora Dairy

Single-source, farmhouse sheep milk dairy & cheesery

Pecora Dairy's gentle, light-handed approach intertwines throughout all aspects of farming and cheesemaking, resulting in benchmark ewe's milk cheeses with provenance of single time and place, and are an expression of the farm's entire ecosystem.

Together, Michael and Cressida have chosen a multi-functional approach to their business. Not only are they delivering champion-winning products, but also they are investing in the future by off-setting carbon emissions, clearing only 60% of the land to ensure biodiversity is maximised, and diversifying the business by opening a European-inspired regional venue where the public can enjoy cheese and charcuterie boards from their elegant grazing menu.

Michael and Cressida shared what it means for Pecora Dairy to be awarded the President's Medal:

The President's Medal is a unique and prestigious award that acknowledges farmers for all the things that are not included in the price of a product—our triple bottom line of: sustainability, focus on environment, and social good.

It's wonderful to see the President's Medal filling this space and encouraging responsible production of sustainable products.

Through this award, the RAS recognises the how a producer farms. There is often conversation about what it is we eat, whereas the conversation should also be about how it is farmed. This competition moves that question from the what to the how, something we

would like to encourage consumers to consider when purchasing their food.

Michael and I are first generation farmers, we have invested everything in what we do. It was always our intention to produce benchmark raw milk cheese, we consider it to be our life's work. Winning the President's Medal encourages our work as we continue to push for excellence.

When we submitted our Jamberoo Mountain Blue to the Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show in 2010, we were overwhelmed and chuffed to win a gold medal. That win gave us confidence to launch Pecora Dairy because we knew we had a quality product.

Now that our business is mature, Michael and I are stepping into more leadership roles in agriculture. We want to inspire other producers to grow businesses with strong fundamentals that drive agriculture forward.



Sydney Royal is such an important part of the journey for producers. It allows farmers to build brands and strong businesses, which contribute to viable and healthy family farms.

The RAS is a very special institution and a vital part of the agricultural landscape in Australia.

We would like to thank the President's Medal judges for their diligence and thoughtfulness as they went through the judging process.

We would also like to congratulate all the 2024 finalists. The producers in this year's President's Medal are fine examples of their industries and it was a joy to meet them at the awards dinner. As producers, we have so much in common, and to be off our farms with the opportunity to gather together, the President's Medal is a place to share insights and offer suggestions with each other. ●

To learn more about Pecora Dairy, or to make a booking, visit: www.pecoradairy.com.au

One of the things we have been privileged to do, as the first producers of raw milk cheese in Australia, is to collaborate with the NSW Food Authority to create a framework for other producers to make safe raw milk cheeses.

This is a result of Sydney Royal's mission to drive quality and innovation in Australian agriculture.

What Sydney Royal competitions also do is bridge the gap between farmers and consumers, the country and city. The rewarding part is bridging that gap between what consumers experience and how their food is produced. These awards are absolutely crucial to make that happen.

We would encourage other producers to enter Sydney Royal competitions.



Local Stories are Regional Media's Greatest Asset.

Words by Nick Newling, 2024 Recipient of the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism

Nationals MP for the NSW seat of Clarence, Richie Williamson, believes that the struggling regional journalism industry needs to focus on local issues to maintain its standing as a powerful community resource.

"The stories that need to be told [in regional papers] are stories that show that life is different in regional New South Wales. It doesn't mean that's a good or bad thing, but I think the story is that life is different. We get our news in a different way, we travel in a different way, and we communicate in a different way than a lot of people do in the city. I think that's the main issue for regional media, to acknowledge that the regions are different to the city."

Williamson, who worked as a radio broadcaster at Grafton based 2GF for thirty years before entering public life, believes that regional stories are integral to the Australian identity, and says that the media performs its best when it highlights regional stories, and supports regional journalists.

"It's absolutely vital to ensure that our stories in the bush are not only told in the bush, but that they're also told in the city as well. Well trained, highly qualified journalism is as important in the streets, towns and regional cities as it is in Pitt Street."

Despite his hopes and expectations for the industry, Williamson has observed first-hand the declining health of regional media, specifically in his own Northern Rivers community, through

the collapse of their local paper The Daily Examiner, owned by NewsCorp subsidiary Nationwide News.

"When I first started in radio, The Daily Examiner was in full swing. I would hazard a guess that there were up to 10 to 12 journalists and three photographers. Now there are no photographers and I believe one journalist."

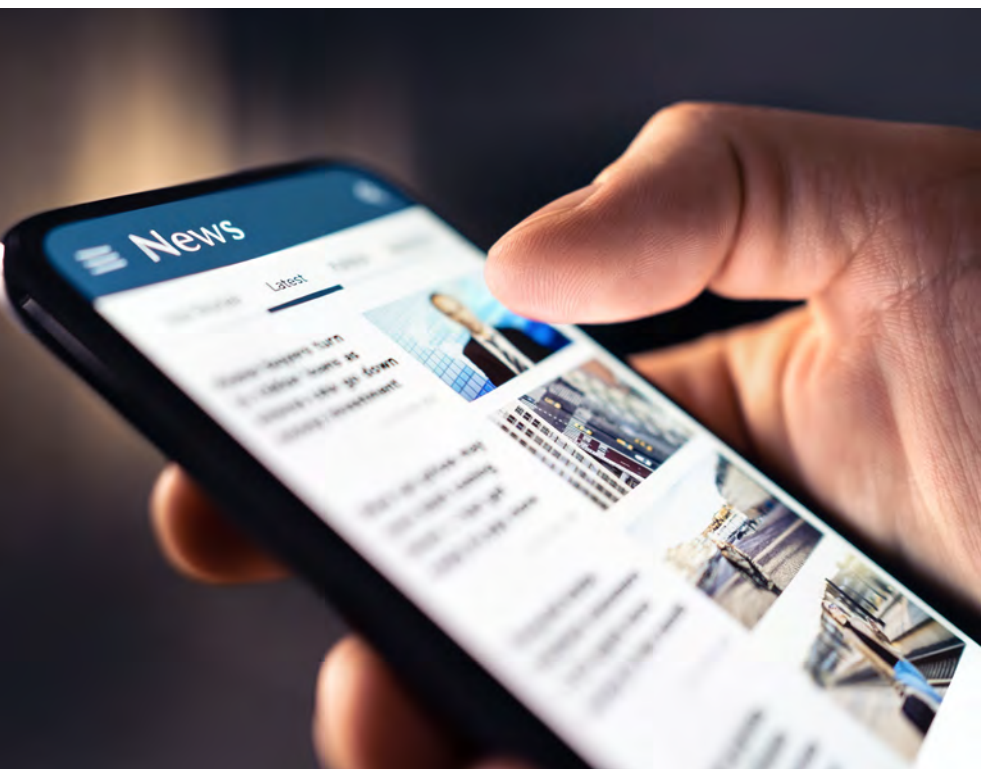
"I'm very worried about the future of regional journalism" said Williamson, "We are seeing the great watering down of that profession, in every major media—whether that's print, television or radio—there is a watering down of professional journalists, both in terms of quality and number."

TYRRELL'S

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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.



According to the Public Interest Journalism Initiative, since January 2019, over 322 news services across the country have closed, many of which are in regional Australia. While 171 services have opened in that same period, there is still anxiety that a diminished industry will harm regional citizens:

“Since NewsCorp shut down all their regional mastheads [some converted to digital], one of the really big issues in my community was and still remains, how do local residents get the information about who has died? The Daily Examiner, which was a daily journal, carried all that information, and while it seems on the surface to be a small thing, if you dig down to it, it is actually a connectivity issue. People felt unconnected because they weren’t getting that information.”

Lucie Peart, the owner of independent news publisher Gilgandra Newspapers, and President of Country Press NSW, an organisation that represents over 40 regional mastheads, believes that no media model compares with regional papers because “there’s a trust with your local media and your local paper—that they’re operating with standards. All Country Press NSW members abide by Australian Press Council standards, as part of our charter. There’s a recognition that what we’re printing is of a standard of truth and fairness. The internet doesn’t do that. Anyone can say anything they like on the

internet, true or not. So getting rid of a source that is promoting truth and fair discussion would be detrimental to the health of our democracy.”

To Peart, regional papers have a leg up on their metropolitan counterparts because they don’t just share news, they build communities.

However, she cautions about the way regional stories are told across the country: “I think there’s definitely merit in having regional issues brought to light in metropolitan media, but they have to be brought to light properly. Not with some sort of strange tokenism about the ‘battlers of the bush’ or all these things. That can be an experience for one issue, but we’re also thriving, and people want to move here.”

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, regional Australia’s population grew by over 100,000 residents in the 2021-2022 period, and by over 70,000 the year before. With this growth, Peart argues that the regions are gaining new citizens looking for the kind of captivating and community-oriented journalism that only regional media can provide: “There’s much more room to tell [community stories] in a local newspaper than there is on TV or radio, and there’s recognition that if something has been covered by the local paper, that it’s a real issue. There’s a lot of scope to

do some really good reporting and tell stories that perhaps you don’t see in the metropolitan news cycle.”

The next few years will pose significant challenges to the regional media industry, with technology development and increased digitisation putting pressure on the already struggling industry. However, with stronger community understanding of the value of regional journalism, and increased engagement from policymakers, the industry may well be able to navigate its changing future, and remain a vital part of Australia’s news ecosystem. ●



Nick Newling is a multimedia journalist based in Sydney, Australia. He has written for Guardian Australia and Central News, where his work has focused on current affairs and politics. He is a producer and presenter at FBi Radio, on the current affairs program Backchat. He also works as a Research Assistant at the Centre for Media Transition, where his work focuses on regional news media, media standards and media complaints. Previously, Nick was a producer at the 2ser Radio program, The Daily, where he produced weekly updates on federal, state and local politics. Nick Newling is the 2024 winner of the JB Fairfax Award for Regional and Rural Journalism and Communications, and has won numerous awards for his journalism through UTS. He is currently studying a Bachelor of Communications in Journalism and Social & Political Sciences at UTS.

NO ONE TURNS UP MORE THAN WE DO, NO ONE SUPPORTS FARMERS LIKE WE DO

Our team of dedicated agricultural journalists and stud stock media specialists is the largest in the country. ACM Agricultural Publishing & Events covers more rural events, attends more livestock sales and tells more positive stories about agriculture than any other media outlet Australia wide.

Providing a voice and a platform for farmers is a commitment we made to the industry more than 100 years ago and we proudly continue to do so today.

Each month our rural newspapers are read by more than 415,817 people,

more than 95,426 visit our websites and 436,406 follow our Social media pages.

Our founding fathers set out to create newspapers with the clout to ensure the voice of farmers could not be drowned out by city-based politicians, mainstream media and lobbyists wanting to put their interests above agriculture and country people.

Our commitment to doing so is undiminished but what has changed is we now reach a much wider audience - largely through our digital platforms, meaning your voices, your messages and your stories are reaching more people than ever before.

Got a story to tell email us at letters@theland.com.au



ACM Agri
THE LAND



Not all Heroes Wear Capes

The Sydney Royal Canine Hero Award celebrates and awards canine companions who have performed extraordinary feats in the service of their humans.

Without phone or radio, Pete Stevenson regained consciousness laying on the ground out in a back paddock of his Garoo, NSW property. He was alone except for his three working kelpies. It was an early morning cattle muster, on horseback, collecting a few heifers to bring back to the mob. Pete hadn't realised it, but the hill he was cantering across was undermined by rabbit warrens. The hole-ridden ground collapsed, causing the horse to flip and

somersault while Pete was still in the saddle. The impact of horse and man crashing down fractured Pete's pelvis in two places, dislocated his shoulder, broke his hand, sternum and 4 ribs, and collapsed a lung. His stomach muscles were ripped off the front of his pelvic bone, and as he would discover later, the separation was only 3mm away from causing him to bleed out and die that day, right there in the paddock.

What was supposed to be a quick 20-minute muster became a fight for his life. Pete's horse survived the fall, but

there was no way Pete could climb back on to return home. Had it not been for his dogs, Pete and his family hate to think what may have transpired that day.

Who can explain how dogs communicate together so perfectly? Who knows how they do what they do? However it happens, the instinctive nature of Pete's closest companions is nothing short of miraculous.

The old bitch, Nell, stayed with Pete, carefully keeping curious cattle away and always returning to sit next to him. Most of Pete's injuries were on his left side, old Nell carefully stayed on his right side, away from Pete's injuries.

Fearful that he might not be found unless in a paddock gateway, Pete dragged himself to the nearest gate, about 30metres away, throwing up the whole way due to the overwhelming pain.

Fred, the second dog, guided the horse safely home along the fence line. Working dogs know that mustering horses is not what they normally do, but this day, Fred knew this was his job.

But it was old Pistol who likely saved Pete's life that morning. Pistol ran 5kms, across two paddocks, then jumped into the back of the side-by-side buggy to get the attention of the Station-hand. Pistol is extremely loyal and was known to never leave Pete's side, so for him to suddenly appear with Pete nowhere in sight, the Station-hand knew something wasn't right. He took the side-by-side to where he thought Pete was mustering and found him, semi-conscious, leaning up against the gateway.

The Westpac helicopter delivered Pete to emergency for life-saving care, and he has since fully recovered, but it is the coordination of these three dogs that, to this day, make Pete, and his wife, cry tears of joy and gratitude. These working dogs knew exactly how and what each of them needed to do to care for the horse, protect Pete from cattle, and get immediate, emergency help.

The Sydney Royal is proud to recognise and reward Pistol for his efforts, he is the epitome of a Canine Hero Companion Dog. ●

WORDS ELIZABETH A NIXON JD



The AAR is one of the largest and most comprehensive non-profit animal registration and recovery services 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 a proud supporter of the Sydney Royal Canine Hero Awards hosted annually at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, providing two \$1500 cash prizes, one each for Canine Hero Award, Service Dog and Companion Dog.

AAR: Celebrating canine companions performing extraordinary feats in service of humans.

The AAR processed 206,889 new registrations and 103,960 changes of ownership in the 2022/23 financial year.

Register your pet today!

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

AAR Australasian
Animal
Registry





2024 SRES Competition Results

ALPACAS

- Best Suri Alpaca in Show**
Mapa, Yass River, NSW
- Most Successful Suri Exhibitor in Show**
Suri Alliance, Bowral, NSW
- Best Huacaya Alpaca in Show**
Precision, Baynton, VIC
- Most Successful Huacaya Exhibitor in Show**
Precision, Baynton, VIC

AQUACULTURE

- Champion Commerical Sydney Rock Oyster**
Tathra Oysters, Tathra, NSW

ARTS & CRAFTS

- The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Arts Committee Award for Best Exhibit in Arts Classes 1 to 11**
Freda Surgenor, Caringbah, NSW
- The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Art Prize presented by the RAS President for the best Rural Subject painted in a traditional style in Class 1**
Margert Hadfield, Fyshwick, ACT
- Popular Choice Award For Art. Awarded to the artist whose Rural Subject and/or Landscape painting (Class 1) is voted Most Popular by public ballot**
Mark Cambourn, Hornsby, NSW
- The Margaret Fesq Memorial**

- Perpetual Art Prize for the best painting in Class 7 - Oriental Painting**
Wai Fong Chung, Wolli Creek, NSW
- The Watt Family Perpetual Trophy for the winner of the Best Photograph in Show**
Daniel Giffney, Kings Park, NSW
- The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Award for Best Black & White Exhibit in Photography Classes 12 to 15**
Zhenyu Wang, Casula, NSW
- The Frances Binnie Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the most meritorious Exhibit in Classes 35 to 355 in the Standard of Excellence Case**
Sarah Woodfield, Rooty Hill, NSW
- The Royal Agricultural Society of**

- NSW Award for Best Australian Working Rural related Exhibit Classes 249 to 253 and 256**
Glenn Davis, Hallsville, NSW
- The Dorothy Evans Perpetual Trophy for the Best Exhibit in Cake Decorating and Sugar Art Classes 360 to 382**
Kathleen Forsythe, San Remo, NSW
- Popular Choice Award For Cake Decorating & Sugar Art. Classes 360-382 & 575-576**
William Pellicane, Kellyville Ridge, NSW
- The Heather Gibson Perpetual Trophy for the Most Successful Exhibitor in Non-Perishable Cooking Classes 385 to 391**
Jo-Anne Wright, Kariong, NSW
- The W H Davies Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Most Meritorious Exhibit in an Under 20's section in Homewares**
Kaila Elias, Rockdale, NSW

AVIARY BIRD

- Grand Champion African Lovebird**
David Horn, Kellyville, NSW

- Grand Champion Budgerigar**
Luke Connor, Grays Point, NSW
- Grand Champion Canary**
John Walker, Windang, NSW
- Grand Champion Finch**
Ivan Cindric, Blakehurst, NSW
- Grand Champion Parrot**
Peter Mrowka, West Wyalong, NSW

BEEF CATTLE

- The Hordern Perpetual Trophy, Best Pair: Grand Champion Male and Female**
Mr Jack Robson & Mr Sam Robson, Adelong, NSW
- The Urquhart Perpetual Trophy, Supreme Beef Breed Animal**
Mr Jack Robson & Mr Sam Robson, Adelong, NSW
- RAS Supreme Junior Champion Interbreed Heifer**
Bunyip Black Simmentals & Borhson Marketing, Bunyip, VIC

- STEER & CARCASE**
The Coghlan Pure Bred Steer Perpetual Trophy, Grand Champion Steer

- Scots All Saints College, Bathurst, NSW**
- The Coghlan Pure Bred Carcase Perpetual Trophy, Grand Champion Carcase**
Mystic Ridge Limousins, Freeman's Reach, NSW

DAIRY CATTLE

- Supreme Junior Champion Dairy Female**
M & L Flemming, Newry, VIC
- The Wesfarmers Federation Insurance Perpetual Shield, Supreme Intermediate Champion Dairy Female**
Declan Patten, John Tarpey, and TR Investments, Traralgon East, VIC
- The Dairy Farmers Supreme Champion Perpetual Trophy, Supreme Champion Dairy Female**
Rick & Tina Wishart, Mead, VIC
- Fancy Dress Calf Competition**
Katie Strong, Jamberoo, NSW



DISTRICT EXHIBITS

District Exhibits Overall
Northern District, NSW
District Exhibits Display
Central District, NSW
School Produce Competition
Lake Illawarra High School,
Wollongong, NSW

DOGS

Best in Show
Old English Sheepdog
M Aitchison & D Aitchison,
Honeywood, TAS
Best Puppy in Show
Lagotto Romagnolo
D Le Court, Mount Cotton, QLD
Obedience - Best in Trial
P J Dalzell, Newport, NSW

FLOWER & GARDEN

Most Successful Exhibitor of Show
Graeme Davis, Ainslie, ACT
The Banksian Medal for the Exhibitor Gaining the Highest Aggregate Number of Points



Edward & Meryl Morphett, Emu Plains, NSW
The John Thomas Baptist Memorial Medal for the Exhibitor with the Greatest Number of First Place Wins
Graeme Davis, Ainslie, ACT
Most Successful Exhibitor in Decorative Section
Mary Fairlie-Cuninghame, Lane Cove North, NSW
RAS Floral Designer Competition
Jeffrey Smith & Duc Thuan Bui, Sefton, NSW
Supreme Champion Children's Exhibit
Angelina Smithson, West Pennant Hills, NSW
Supreme Champion Children's Decorative Exhibit
Aayush Shah, Annangrove, NSW
Sydney Royal School Produce Competition - Primary
Trinity Grammar Junior School, Summer Hill, NSW

GOATS

Most Successful Angora Goat Exhibitor
Debbie Scattergood, Bungendore, NSW

Most Successful Boer Goat Exhibitor
Micathel Boer Goat Stud, Cudal, NSW
Best Miniature Goat in Show
Kamalaya Farm & Stoney Creek Farm, Tallebudgera Valley / Guanaba, QLD

HONEY

Supreme Champion Exhibit (Open Honey Classes)
Beelinda's Bee Hive, Crookwell, NSW
Most Successful Exhibitor in Honey Classes
Norman & Ashley Webb, North Rocks, NSW
Supreme Champion Small Producers Exhibit
John Bradshaw, Clarence Town, NSW
Most Successful Exhibitor in Small Producers Classes
Norman & Ashley Webb, North Rocks, NSW
Best Exhibit in Show
John Bradshaw, Clarence Town, NSW
Champion School Exhibit
The Armidale School, Armidale, NSW

HORSE

The Col A V Pope Best Gelding Hack over 15hh
Riley Kent, Biddaddaba, QLD
The F L Crane Best Mare or Filly Hack over 15hh
Ali Berwick & Greg Gerry, Yannathan, VIC
Australian National Champion Gentleman Rider
Rhys Stanley, Coleville, QLD
Australian National Champion Lady Rider
Jessica Dertell, Romsey, VIC
Fancy Dress Horse Competition
Oliver Galloway-Smith, O'Connell, NSW
Grand Prix Winner
Tim Boland & Thomas McDermott, Cooley Gangster, Mulgoa, NSW
World Championship Campdraft
Luke Bennett, Dundee, NSW
Tentpegging Teams Challenge
Tamworth Tentpegging Team, Loomberah, NSW

PIGS

Supreme Champion Boar of Show
Brisbane Water Secondary College and Richard & Heather Cole, Umina

Beach, NSW
Supreme Champion Sow of Show
Food Security International, Canning Vale, WA
Best Pig in Show
Brisbane Water Secondary College and Richard & Heather Cole, Umina Beach, NSW
Most Successful Exhibitor of Show
Gumshire Pork, Keyneton, SA

POULTRY

Grand Champion Bird of Show
Phillip Tisdell, Wherrol Flat, NSW
Champion Hardfeather Standard or Bantam
P & L Tisdell, Wherrol Flat, NSW
Champion Softfeather Standard or Bantam
Phillip Tisdell, Wherrol Flat, NSW
Champion Field & Forest (Turkeys, Guinea Fowl & Jungle Fowl)
Akers Flock, Tallygaroopna, VIC
Champion Waterfowl (Goose, Gander, Duck or Drake)
Danny Benn & Gerald Farrugia, Dapto, NSW
Grand Champion Egg Exhibit
Anthony De Silva, Boorowa, NSW
Champion School Poultry Exhibit
Galston High School, Galston, NSW
Champion Youth Poultry Showmanship Competitor
Rylee Schaefer, Narellan, NSW
Champion Racing Homer
Phillip Bachner, Ellis Lane, NSW
Champion Fancy Pigeon
Fred Frendo, Orchard Hills, NSW
Champion Utility Pigeon
Phillip Bachner, Ellis Lane, NSW

PUMPKINS & SCARECROW

Champion Giant Pumpkin
Mark Peacock, Tumut, NSW
Scarecrow Creation (15 & Under)
Bilgola Plateau Public School, Bilgola Plateau, NSW
Scarecrow Creation (16 & Over)
Michelle Pearce & Jane Lenehan, Orange, NSW

SHEEP

MERINO
Supreme Merino Ram
West Plains, Delegate, NSW
Supreme Merino Exhibit
West Plains, Delegate, NSW



FLEECE
Grand Champion Merino Fleece
Goodwin, Countegany, NSW

MEAT & DUAL PURPOSE
Grand Champion Schools Exhibit
Macarthur White Suffolk, Cobbitty, NSW

WOODCHOP

375mm World Championship Standing Block
Mitch Argent, Blackbutt, QLD
325mm World Championship Tree Felling
Daniel Gurr, Deloraine, TAS
375mm World Championship Sawing (Single-handed)
Robert Dowling, Mount Gambier, SA
600mm World Championship Sawing (Double-handed)
Brad Turner, Tarleton, TAS
Women's World Championship Underhand
Ashleigh Marsh, Bellbird, NSW
Women's World Championship Sawing (Single-handed)
Jinaya Niass, Riverstone, NSW
Endurance Event
Jason Lentz, Diana, West Virginia, USA

Champion of Champions (Most Successful Competitor in Single-handed Events)
Brayden Meyer, Kingsthorpe, QLD
Most Successful Competitor in the Ladies Events
Ashleigh Marsh, Bellbird, NSW

YOUTH AWARDS

RAS Rural Achiever
Grace Collins, Armidale, NSW
The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman
Domonique Wyse, Taree, NSW
Young Farmer Challenge, 2024 State Final
Goulburn Show Society
Katie Beresford, Cooper Mooney
Claire Liversidge, Chloe Jade Sawell, Goulburn, NSW
2024 ALPA Young Auctioneers NSW State Final, The John Weekes Memorial Annual Trophy
Darcy Howard, MCC Chudleigh
Dobell, Forbes, NSW
2024 ALPA Young Auctioneers National Final, The Prosser Annual Cup
Justin Oakenfull, Elders Rural Services, Inverell, NSW ●



Introducing Chef Cyril Miletto

New Executive Chef at Sydney Showground

Sydney Showground's new Executive Chef is the brilliant and vibrant Swiss-born Cyril Miletto. With extensive experience across Europe and Australia, Miletto's education includes Certificat Fédéral de Capacité Cuisiner in Montreux, Switzerland.

Miletto most recently served as Executive Chef at Gastronomy in Alexandria, Sydney, a catering company where he was responsible for five on-site kitchens. He has also served as Executive Chef and Chef de Cuisine at the Crowne Plaza, Terrigal, and Georges Restaurant in Double Bay.

Before coming to Australia in the mid-90's, Miletto was the Chef de Partie at the 3 Star Michelin restaurant, Le Pont de Brent in Montreux, Switzerland.

He also served at Michelin starred restaurant, Le Meridien in Piccadilly, London, and at The Oak Room as First Commis Chef under the consultancy of Michel Lorain (La Côte St Jacques, Joigny, France).

Miletto's ethos is as humble as he is and speaks volumes to his personal character, it is simply: respect. "Respect is the key word for me. Respect for the farmers and producers, respect for the people who work with me and respect for the food. I recognise the dedication and care it takes to produce the ingredients I work with. It has probably become a cliché but that doesn't negate the truth, a clean, simple approach to the ingredients, not over-complicating or distorting the product, allows the product and flavour to shine." ●

BIG WINS FOR SYDNEY SHOWGROUND

The Sydney Showground events team have racked up their second win in a row at the prestigious and highly regarded MEA Awards (NSW), taking home the coveted BEST EVENT VENUE, capacity >1,000.

With a history of recognising excellence in the events industry, MEA's Awards Program has celebrated the achievements of its hardworking industry since 1983. It is the only awards program that encompasses the entire breadth of the Australian events industry.

Congratulations to the Showground Team, two years in a row!

GWS GIANTS MATCHES AT ENGIE STADIUM

GWS GIANTS v Carlton

Saturday 6 July, 7:30pm

GWS GIANTS v Gold Coast Suns

Saturday 20 July, 1:45pm

GWS GIANTS v Fremantle

Saturday 17 August, 1:45pm

HYROX SYDNEY

27 JULY

HYROX combines both running and functional workout stations, where participants complete repetitive workout sets, including 1km runs and functional workout stations. Accommodating both professional athletes and everyday fitness enthusiasts looking to take their training to the next level, HYROX is the sport for everybody.

SYDNEY DISABILITY EXPO

2 - 3 AUGUST

The Sydney Disability Expo brings together a wide range of products and services to help people live their best life, including aids and equipment providers, education, training and employment providers, social and leisure options, transport, vehicles and more.

SYDNEY'S ANNUAL WEDDING EXPO

18 AUGUST

Plan your entire wedding all under one roof. Connect with the best and most creative vendors and wedding suppliers. Our wedding expo is full of samples, expo exclusive deals, inspiration and free offers. It is an event not to be missed!

DOG LOVERS FESTIVAL SYDNEY

24 - 25 AUGUST

Sydney will be filled with puppy love this August, as dog lovers from across Sydney and around Australia descend on possibly the greatest dog-dedicated festival in the world! Across the fur-filled weekend you can expect to experience talented dogs, check out the breed showcase and adoption zone, and spoil your pooch with stacks of dog friendly products.

CAT LOVERS FESTIVAL SYDNEY

24 - 25 AUGUST

Feline fanciers throughout New South Wales are gearing up for the most purr-fect weekend! Curious? Well, the cat's out of the bag! Australia's most beloved event for cat enthusiasts makes its return in 2024 with 200+ felines, leading cat



associations and expert breeders, shop until you drop in the expo, the WHISKAS® Adoption Zone and so much more!

MARLO PRESENTS ALTITUDE - ELEMENTS OF UNITY

31 AUGUST

MaRLo's ALTITUDE is returning to Sydney this August for the next instalment - ALTITUDE - Elements of Unity. Get ready for a mind blowing, one-of-a-kind production and a huge set filled with crowd favourites. Special guests Vini Vici have just been announced, so this edition is not to be missed!

PREGNANCY BABIES & CHILDREN'S EXPO

14 - 15 SEPTEMBER

The Pregnancy Babies & Children's Expo (PBC BABY Expo) showcases big brands, best prices, expert talks and classes from our resident midwife and parenting professionals, and all the latest innovations under one roof. See, touch

and try before you buy with exclusive EXPO DEALS on all your baby and nursery essentials. Discover all you need to know from bump to birth and beyond.

OZ COMIC CON

21 - 22 SEPTEMBER

Step into the extraordinary world of Oz Comic-Con, where age is just a number and passion knows no bounds! Embark on a thrilling journey across two action-packed days filled with adventure, laughter and all things pop culture.

GO DIVING SHOW

28 - 29 SEPTEMBER

The Go Diving Show debuts in Sydney, with dynamic exhibits and activities. Highlighting cutting-edge diving gear, dream holiday spots, and extensive training materials, it's a polished hub for diving enthusiasts at all levels. Visitors will engage in enriching, professional experiences, designed to deepen connections and broaden diving knowledge globally. ●



Cathy Munday, chipping away

When Cathy Munday entered in the Woodchop at her first Royal in 1984 as a sixteen-year-old, the sport didn't want to know about her. But at this year's 125th anniversary of the competition at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, she was welcomed as a star.

It was something to see. There were cheers, and tears, too, from women in the crowd, moved by the announcer's story. Cathy Munday was there to present the inaugural winner of the 325mm Women's World Sawing Championship with all the silverware the victory deserved. Maybe the mighty Matildas had something to do with the crowd's appreciation of the significance of the occasion. They'd heard the tale before—the long struggle of pioneering women in their sport to finally find an equal place with male

competitors in the minds of administrators, and the hearts of fans. Spectators understood they were privileged, witness to something special.

With the staging of that event and the inaugural 275mm Women's World Championship underhand held the next day, the last barrier to parity was hacked down. For the first time in RAS history, individual world championship events for women were on the program, and what's more, the prizemoney was equal to the men's. It was something Cathy Munday couldn't miss, a fitting

conclusion to a lifetime of pushing for the right to participate. Though she wouldn't be wielding axe or saw herself, there was a time when she would have been favourite, if only she'd had the chance. Never mind. To watch others was enough, well worth making the rare trip up to Sydney from her south coast home.

As a kid, Cathy spent most weekends in the bush. Her father, Bob, had a logging contract in Eden, and while he fixed machinery on Saturdays and Sundays to be ready for the week's work ahead, Cathy and her brother chopped away at

logs he'd set up for them on the dump. It was their entertainment. Same when the family travelled to country shows during the season. Bob Munday competed in the woodchop, just as his father had, and rather than hang around bored, the kids joined in.

As the only girl, Cathy had to compete against boys. She did well at junior chopping events until the boys hit puberty and went through their grow spurt. That forced her to concentrate on sawing where strength wasn't such an issue. At the regional level people were accepting because of the family nature of the woodchop community, but all that changed in 1984 when, as a sixteen-year-old, she entered the Melbourne Royal in the double-handed sawing, partnering with her dad. The event was traditionally performed by two men. Initially her entry was accepted, but when she turned up it was refused. With characteristic generosity and warmth, Cathy is philosophical looking back on those times: 'It was run by older people that I guess were used to the way things were.' But the unfairness of it hurt.

Cathy's mother told officials she'd see them in court. She wasn't hell-bent on her daughter doing the sport, she was just doing what mothers do and backing her child.

'Mum just went, that's not fair, that's not right.'

Despite all her success, Cathy met with more resistance when she started to push for additional classes. Organisers thought women-only events would look silly.

Officials relented. Cathy did okay in her event, but with all the focus on her, and the media attention the stoush drew, it was quite overwhelming.

'I was like this three-headed person, news, TV, pictures... I was only sixteen, pretty nervous.'

Melbourne opened the door to other Royals, although she only felt 'tolerated' at first. The intense media scrutiny continued. In interview after interview, she was asked to explain herself.

Things changed when Cathy regularly notched up big wins with greats like David Foster and Steven Kirk as sawing partners. They beat all-male teams at Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, even when the handicapping system penalised them heavily as favourites. When Jack and Jill competitions became commonplace, Cathy was the obvious partner of choice and many championships followed.

Despite all her success, Cathy met with more resistance when she started to push for additional classes. Organisers thought women-only events would look

silly: mere novelties that would detract from the sport. Not true, she countered, because women would be racing against each other on the same level.

'It's entertaining to watch women racing women in the swimming pool. It's absolutely the same as watching men racing men in the swimming pool. What's the difference? There's none.'

But the old guard were stubborn and when a back injury forced Cathy to retire in 1994 after ten successful years on the circuit, she was no closer to getting her way. Until, at last, in 2003, news reached her that a women's underhand chop was to be held at that year's Sydney Show. It was galvanising, especially as it came while the Munday family were coming to terms with the death of Cathy's brother. A tree had fallen on him in a logging accident at work. His axe was never recovered from the site and a very

Above: The 2024 Women's Woodchopping & Sawing Winners. **Opposite:** Cathy Munday and her father, Bob Munday, competing, 1989.

IMAGE CREDIT: Head First Photos.



Above: Cathy Munday, Victorian Axeman's Council's Hall of Fame.
Left: 2024 Inaugural Women's World Champions Jinaya Niass and Ashleigh Marsh.

determined Cathy and her sister went out to the bush to find it. Armed with a hired metal detector they started searching but had no immediate luck. Finally, when Cathy put herself in her brother's shoes and started thinking about where he would have thrown his axe to use it next, the metal detector went off. The axe was buried deep in bark. When she got home, she gave it to her dad saying, 'Here you go. Do that up and I'll chop in Sydney.'

She duly competed and won.

'No one was going to beat me.'

Cathy was now a champion in her own right.

That was the beginning of agitating for more women's events. 'I was pretty obsessed by then... I just kept pushing.'

She told administrators they should have a women's teams' event. Predictably, they said no, claiming they didn't have enough women.

'Of course you do!' said Cathy.

Again, Cathy prevailed, and a demonstration event against New Zealand women at Sydney Show proved her point: the stadium was packed, people loved it. From then on, she was the Australian women's team captain until her retirement in 2009.

Cathy's last battle was over the entry she submitted for a father and son event at the Sydney Show with her dad. Once again,

she was knocked back at the last minute.

'But he hasn't got a son [that competes];' she protested.

She was wearing her Australian team jacket when she heard the news. Her first instinct was to storm upstairs to give officials a piece of her mind, but she checked herself for long enough to take off the jacket. She didn't want to disgrace it if she really lost her cool while it was still on her back.

Other male woodchoppers who didn't have sons were in the same boat, she argued. They wanted to compete with their daughters. What was to be done about that?

The following year the class was opened up, allowing Cathy and her father to compete—and win. Today the event is known as Parent and Child.

Looking back, Cathy laughs, 'Now all the events are sorted out, I don't have to pester anyone. I can rest in peace.'

Although Cathy was a champion axewoman and sawyer across all events, her proudest memories are of national team victories. Her final relay race was a standout. She was the last to chop in the Australian team and when Kiwi ace Karmyn Wynyard turned ahead of her, she knew she was in trouble. Cathy could hear David Foster screaming from the sidelines, 'You're going to have to find something, now!'

When she turned, the crowd in the Sydney woodchop stadium roared.

'All of a sudden it was as if [the noise] picked me up and I couldn't hear anything except David going, "Find something Cathy, NOW!"'

Cathy caught Karmyn and came off her block a hit before her. They'd won! The crowd went crazy.

'But if that was just me chopping for myself in the women's championship,' says Cathy, 'I'd probably still be chopping.'

In 2016 the sport recognised Cathy as an all-time great, inducting her into the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame. As a lion-hearted winner, and as a trailblazer for women, her contribution could not have been bigger.

In the blaring sun on a glorious autumn day at this year's Show, the crowd in the stadium understood, applauding Cathy as much as Jinaya Niass, the first women's world champ that she crowned. ●

2024 SRES AWARD PRESENTATIONS

At the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show, Cathy Munday presented the two inaugural Women's World Championship awards:

Inaugural 325mm Women's World Championship Sawing Contest (Single Handed)

WINNER: Jinaya Niass, Riverstone, NSW

Inaugural 275mm Women's World Championship Underhand

WINNER: Ashleigh Marsh, Bellbird, NSW

IMAGE CREDIT: Head First Photos.



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