



# VICTORIAN AGRICULTURAL SHOWS LTD

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020



### Chairpersons Report – Jenny Daffy

Hi All,

As we come to the end of another year with all Spring Shows cancelled due to COVID-19 it is pleasing to see that regulations are relaxing throughout Victoria and no further cases recently.

As Committees plan for 2021 VAS has had a couple of Shows cancel for the 2021 Autumn season but most are getting organised to present their annual event.

Whilst there are regulations governing large public events, our VAS Ltd Executive Officer has circulated the most recent State Government guidelines to assist Societies with their requirements. I am sure we will be living differently for some time until this virus is fully contained.

The VAS Board conducted its Annual General Meeting in October and I thank the Board for their support in electing me for a further term as Chairperson. Brian Keirl has accepted the Deputy Chair position and Greg Macdonald retained the Treasurer position. These appointments are up until June 2021 when Board elections and the VAS AGM will hopefully be back in its normal sequence.

The recent Federal Government announcement that almost \$34 million will be shared between 378 Shows & Field days comes as a great relief to the Members that applied. There were 125 successful applications in New South Wales that will receive \$17.4 million, 77 in Victoria that will receive \$4.6 million (*please refer to the list of successful applicants on page 8 of this newsletter*), 81 in Queensland that will receive \$5.6 million, 32 in Western Australia that will receive \$1.6 million, 44 from South Australia that will receive \$3.3 million, 13 in Tasmania that will receive \$844,000 and six in the Northern Territory that will receive \$418,000.

I would like to thank Agricultural Shows Australia for its support lobbying Federal Government for this assistance.

The State Government Victorian Agricultural & Pastoral Society grants program closed for applications on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. I trust that Societies have submitted applications and the Minister confirmed that due to COVID-19 and hard times that the Societies only had to contribute 10% of their project to a maximum of \$10,000.

The VAS Board has been receiving requests for Members to conduct a horse show in their area on a different date to their annual show which the Board encourages but applications must be submitted for approval and not just assumed.

Due to the cancellation of Shows VAS Ltd is currently renewing sponsorships agreements with its partners including Racing Victoria and the Off the Track series. More information will be provided once negotiations have been finalised.

In closing I would like to wish you all a Happy & Safe Christmas and let's hope that the coming months improve and get back to some level of normal life that allows our very important annual events to be conducted again.

Best wishes for 2021.

Many thanks  
Jenny Daffy



## Victorian Shows Go Online!

### Sunbury Agricultural Society

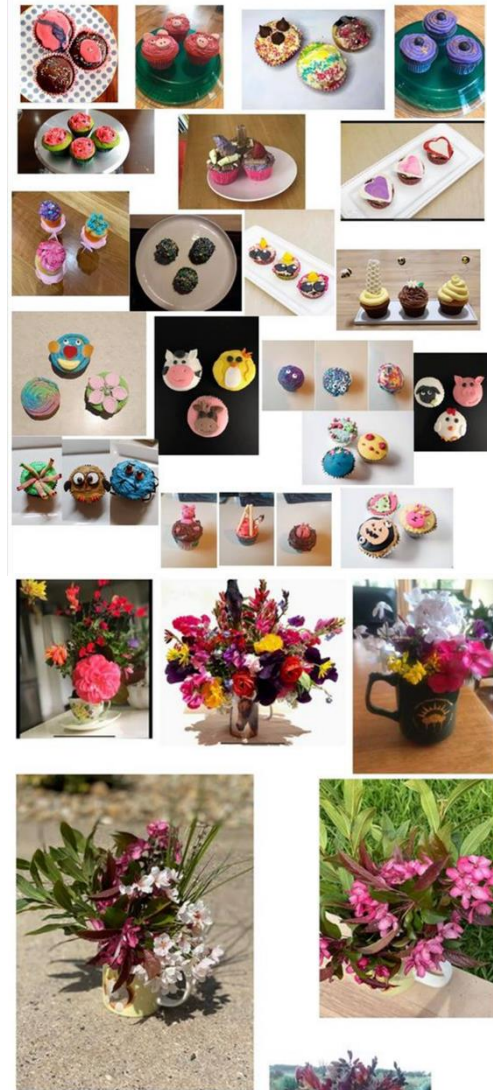
2020 was supposed to be our 100<sup>th</sup> Show however as it was not the centenary year of the Show, due to there being no shows held during the second World War, we can still look forward to having a big 100<sup>th</sup> Show in October 2021. All our hopes lie in COVID-19 remaining under control and a good vaccine being available by then.

Rather than let the month of our Show pass unnoticed, a few members of our committee ran a Virtual Show, which created a lot of interest around the town and proved to be very popular. Our current Junior Ambassador, Michelle Grover, designed the flyer to advertise the show, and one of our very enthusiastic committee members organized the online part of the Show. This was all done through our Facebook page and without the expertise of Narelle Reino, this Virtual Show would not have been the success it was.

Competitions were organised in the following sections:

- Juniors (10 years & under & 11 to 17 years)
  - 3 decorated cup cakes
  - Lego Constructions (any size)
- Open Section
  - 3 decorated cup cakes
  - 4 plain scones
  - Best Dressed Pet
  - Floral Arrangement in a Tea/Coffee Mug

We received many comments on the Facebook page expressing the hope that we would run another Virtual Show, so perhaps in Autumn 2021 we will consider having another event.



### Natimuk A & P Society

We held a small competition over August/September to try and raise spirits within our community by running a hand-crafted mask competition. It was decided to hold the competition over Facebook and to test out a new way of engaging exhibitors and accepting online entries. It was a practice in case it became necessary to offer this format in the future.

Show Secretary Trish created the form and entries were then offered in 2 ways. Entrants could scan the QR code with their phone and be taken to the online entry form.

We also advertised the entry form on our Facebook page with a direct link to the form. Entrants were required to submit a photograph of their exhibit.

Response from the community and wider areas was appreciated and we received several entries in multiple categories. Entrants were asked to sign a consent form for the photo to be used in further publications as part of the entry conditions.

Community comments and feedbacks were positive and supportive. Overall a good result and winners were published in the local newsletter.





## Victorian Shows Go Online!

### Clunes & District Agricultural Society

2020 was supposed to be a big year for the township of Clunes and its Ag Society. The 160<sup>th</sup> Annual Clunes Show was to be held on the third Saturday of November and we looked forward to a cracking celebration. Wouldn't you know it the sun shone, and a lovely day welcomed... no one to the Showgrounds this year. In the past only global conflict had caused the Show to be cancelled. This year it was a global pandemic. Undeterred, the Aussie way is to pick up the bat and ball and carry on, and that's what happened at Clunes this year.

We were thrilled to be successful for our application for the **Federal Government's Ag Shows** funding program. Funding of \$112,000 was approved to demolish our tired old amenities block and replace it with a new facility, far better suited to today's needs. The announcement has meant a flurry of applications for other financial support for the project and we are delighted to be partnering with the **Creswick and District Community Bank, Wesley College, CVLX Miners Rest Saleyards** and the **Waubra Wind Farm** in the completion of this much needed addition to the showgrounds. So-funds are in order, our planning permit has been approved by the Hepburn Shire Council and we are close to signing a contract with a local builder, so it's full steam ahead in 2021.

With no "real show" on the cards for 2020, two successful online competitions were held. The first was the "**Big Ones, Tall Ones, Little Ones, Small Ones and Really Tiny and Slimy Fun Online Pet Competition**". Run by Show volunteers Robert and Elizabeth McCracken, the competition received over 300 entries and there were winners across a range of categories.



Here are 3 photos from the competition, but check out our Facebook page for heaps more, guaranteed to bring a smile to your face.

We also held an online photo competition "**159 Years of Memories**" which attracted over 100 entries. The winning shot is below, capturing the fellowship of show night.

So, a year, which was far from normal, but the Society has forged ahead and looks forward to welcoming the community and visitors alike to a bigger and better Clunes Show in 2021.



*Left: The winning photo from our online photo comp – 159 Years of Memories.*

*(Photo: Andy Shugg)*



## Whittlesea Agricultural Society

The 2020 Irwin Stockfeeds Hoof & Hook Competition was run despite not being able to have our highly valued Annual Whittlesea Agricultural Show. Entries were extra good with 74 exhibits. Live Hoof Judging was held on Sunday November 1st with 65 exhibits received under strict Covid-19 regulations which only allowed a maximum of 10 persons on-site at any one time. The great help of live judge Rocky Capsciolto, enabled us to run the Hoof Judging at the Showgrounds here. Rocky and his family run several properties in the Goulburn Valley turning off finished steers & heifers for the local trade and grew up at Wollert so is a local. He also transports livestock, specialising in goats out of the Bourke area to Melbourne.

I would also like to thank Hardwicks Abattoir, Kyneton for their co-operation in processing cattle and scoring the carcasses. This is an additional workload for them in a short week and support is vital for the competition. Prices are always a talking point and we got the support of Rod Carnegie from Nutrien Ag Solutions, Euroa this year to negotiate which once again resulted in a fair price for the stock.

Due to not being able to have exhibitors at judging we decided to do some video and used the Whittlesea Show Facebook page to give some options to view. I would like to thank Kate Henne and Gay Ward for their efforts in putting this up. Kate has spent a lot of time on this and was very willing to provide this help to us when requested.

Our Stewards on the day are essential and I thank them very much. David Cocking, Geoff Bichard, Doris Cocking, Anne Cocking, Judy Clements, Andrew Cocking, Daryl Johnson. Ray Atwell once again provided the NLIS scanning, which with his help meant we identified the bodies from the scans as we were unable to be present at the Abattoirs due to regulations. The Show Committee and Secretary have given all their support in running this event.

Sponsorship is very important, and this financial support is vital to run these competitions so a massive thanks to our sponsors. Irwin Stockfeeds, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Peter Lennox Mercedes Benz, Nutrien Delaney Livestock & Property, K & G Labels, The Lloyd Family, Mick Hornsby Livestock, A & J Munro, Ross Draper Livestock Transport, Brian Alford Karingal Charolais, Madge Marsh, Cloverly Pastoral P/L, The Gamble Family, Merristock P/L, R & J Hyndman, Craigrossie Pastoral, Geoff Bichard, Melbourne Polytechnic, Maranui Pastoral R H Draper.

Many thanks must also go to our Exhibitors, without their support there would not be an event. This year we were unable to hold a dinner to present the awards, however a picnic was held on the lawns of the Administration Centre at lunchtime on Saturday November 14th. All Presentations were made at the event for both Hoof & Hook sections, as exhibitors had not been allowed at the yards for live judging. Ribbons were an ideal length to be a measure of social distancing! A nice sunny day prevailed, and the 45-50 people enjoyed a relaxing day. Congratulations to all winners in both Hoof & Hook Sections.



Cattle judge Rocky Capsciolto.



Grand Champion: Gay Ward (Red Poll).

### HOOF PLACINGS

**CHAMPION & FIRST IN CLASS 2 ALEX LINEHAM, VERVALE WITH AN ANGUS STEER**  
**RESERVE CHAMPION & SECOND CLASS 2 MALCOLM HACKETT (SPECKLE PARK X SIMMENTAL)**

**3RD ALEX LINEHAM (ANGUS)**

**4TH MEADOW VALE (AUSTRALIAN SHORTHORN)**

**CLASS 1: 1ST GAY WARD (RED POLL)**

**2ND MALCOLM HACKETT (SPECKLE PARK X SIMMENTAL)**

**3RD PETER ROBINSON (LIMOUSIN)**

**4TH BE & LE JOHNSON (RED POLL)**

### CARCASS HOOK RESULTS

**CHAMPION & 1ST CLASS 1 GAY WARD (RED POLL)**

**RESERVE CHAMPION & 1ST CLASS 2 BRYCE JURGENS (ANGUS X MURRAY GREY)**

**CLASS 1 RESULTS: 2ND DN & DL POLLOCK (ANGUS X SHORTHORN)**

**3RD SCOTT BRUTON (SHORTHORN)**

**4TH GEOFF BICHARD (ANGUS X CHAROLAIS)**

**CLASS 2 RESULTS: 2ND T & L ELLIOTT (ANGUS X SOUTH DEVON)**

**3RD DW & DM COCKING (LIMOUSIN)**

**4TH GAY WARD (RED POLL)**



## Alexandra P & A Association

The Alexandra Show ran an online competition with 10 categories including horticulture, cooking, craft and a pet parade, which was open to all ages. The competition was judged independently, and prize cards and ribbons were awarded. We've had lots of positive feedback and had people entering from further afield and hope that the competition will encourage them to support local shows next year. We are considering adding an online component to our show schedule next year.



## Cohuna A P & H Society

### The Show Must Go On(line)

Just one week out from the 107<sup>th</sup> Cohuna Show in mid-March 2020 we made the decision to cancel the show. It was only the fourth cancellation in its 109-year history - flood and war had stopped it before – this time it was the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic situation escalated and within days the Government halted all events, and the state was in lockdown.

We'd gone from the hustle and bustle of the approaching show, to disbelief, disappointment and uncertainty – instead of enjoying the 'Octopus' in sideshow alley, we were riding an emotional rollercoaster. I put my foot down. Covid-19 might have abruptly taken our show away from us but it sure as heck wasn't taking our spirit away with it. The idea of a virtual show was born.

Using Facebook as our platform, we posted a video explaining the concept and word soon spread. The rules were simple. Anyone could submit their own or their child's work, and it was purely for fun – no judging and no prizes.

Every few days a new challenge was issued. Topics were chosen to adhere to the lockdown rules; consideration being taken to ensure challenges could be done at home, and baking was limited because the shelves of the only supermarket in town were devoid of flour. The first challenge, 'photography – mini beasts' was designed to get people of all ages out foraging in their backyards. Other challenges included baking, preserves, painting, garden produce, patchwork, cut flowers, photography, knitting and crocheting, spinning and weaving, a tribute to our war veterans, autumn, Easter, horses, decorated glove/boot/shoe, Lego, and a pet parade. By far the most popular was the pet parade with 99 submissions, including cats, dogs, ponies, horses, sheep, fish, rabbits, cattle and even an emu.

With entrants of all ages from the local community, across the state, and even from Ireland, the first (and only) virtual Cohuna Show was a success. Not only did we hold a show, albeit virtually, we were able to engage the community, provide a distraction and give them something positive to focus on when they most needed it, bring enjoyment to their locked down lives, and lift their spirits. It was exactly what we all needed.

Kirstin Nicholson - Assistant Secretary





## Mansfield A & P Society

The generosity of local businessman Rick Lindsay – Earth Structures provided the encouragement and funds to consider different ways that we could initiate a popular Mansfield Show competition in a COVID safe way. The Mansfield A & P Photographic Competition proved to be great success with the use of a specialised app allowing entrants to submit images and make entry payments online. Excited Adult First Prize winners received \$100.00 and children received \$50.00. Local pharmacy owner Cathy Henry placed the award winning images in her shop window and Mansfield residents and visitors were able to view the exhibition as they went about their shopping and town activities.

Amanda Swaney

Vice-President Mansfield Agricultural and Pastoral Society



Naomi Hempenstall - Winter's Morning Fog Rolling Through



Suzanne Green - Love Where We Live

## Australian Young Farmer Challenge

The Australian Young Farmer Challenge is now being managed by Agricultural Shows Australia with Local, State & National Levels of Competition. VAS is working with in conjunction the RASV and a State Final will be held at the 2021 Royal Melbourne Show. More details will come regarding these arrangements in the new year.

All Shows are encouraged to consider running the Young Farmer Challenge as it showcases depth of knowledge and technical skills required in agriculture today. These challenges can be anything from animal handling to fencing, driving tractors, putting out fires, first aid, heavy lifting, and transport challenges. The Competition is open to teams of four people, teams must have at least one representative from each gender.

Hosting a Young Farmer Challenge is a great way to encourage people to come together at your local show, as both competitors and spectators. A Young Farmer Challenge can be run at a very small cost and support is available through the National coordinator and state representatives. All you need is space, a few helpers and some teams and you're away!

If you need some inspiration to get started or want to talk to someone in your state jump on the ASA website:

<https://agshowsaustralia.org.au/youth-in-agriculture/australian-young-farmer-challenge/>

VAS will provide more details in the New Year.





## Supporting Agricultural Shows & Field Days Program

### Christmas comes early for Agricultural Shows and Field Days

Shows and field days cancelled because of COVID-19 get a slice of \$34 million Australian Government funding to ensure they can bounce back in 2021. Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud said the first payments under the Supporting Agricultural Shows and Field Days program will roll out before Christmas. 378 shows and field days have been approved for funding and will receive almost \$34 million to help ease cash-flow pressures. The Government is keen to ensure show societies and field day organisers are in the best shape possible to continue in 2021 and beyond.

4.6 Million will make its way to Victorian Shows as per the list below of successful shows/field days that will receive grants due to their 2020 Show cancelled.

- Alexandra Show — \$10,000.00
- Ararat Show — \$7,700.00
- Australian Sheep and Wool Show — \$70,000.00
- Bairnsdale Show — \$8,702.13
- Ballarat Show — \$70,000.00
- Balnarring Agricultural Show — \$5,181.60
- Beaufort Show — \$1,652.34
- Benalla Show — \$14,851.70
- Bendigo Show — \$70,000.00
- Bunyip Show — \$2,787.73
- Camperdown Show — \$14,832.42
- Castlemaine Show — \$10,000.00
- Charlton Show — \$9,677.62
- Clunes Show — \$12,065.37
- Cobram Show — \$13,938.00
- Cohuna Show — \$5,693.65
- Colac Show — \$9,385.22
- Coleraine Show — \$9,108.81
- Corryong Show — \$2,698.51
- Croydon Show — \$6,539.43
- Dandenong Show — \$12,360.98
- Dartmoor Show — \$1,411.38
- Dimboola Show — \$2,791.48
- Donald Show — \$15,000.00
- East Gippsland Field Days — \$19,347.00
- Echuca-Moama Show — \$15,000.00
- Edenhope Show — \$5,376.20
- Elmore Field Days — \$70,000.00
- Euroa Show — \$10,000.00
- Farm World (Gippsland) — \$70,000.00
- Geelong Royal Show — \$70,000.00
- Heathcote Show — \$6,790.54
- Horsham Show — \$15,000.00
- Kaniva Show — \$4,522.11
- Kerang Show — \$15,000.00
- Kilmore Show — \$1,490.50
- Kingston Show — \$6,180.86
- Koroit Show — \$6,118.34
- Kyabram Show — \$15,000.00
- Kyneton Show — \$7,349.90
- Lilydale Show — \$70,000.00
- Maffra Show — \$7,221.27
- Maldon Show — \$4,278.45
- Mansfield Show — \$15,000.00
- Mildura Field Days — \$15,000.00
- Mildura Show — \$70,000.00
- Murtoa Show — \$2,044.90
- Myrtleford Show — \$15,000.00
- Nathalia Show — \$10,000.00
- Natimuk Show — \$10,000.00
- Nhill Show — \$10,000.00
- Noorat Show — \$9,241.34
- Numurkah Show — \$15,000.00
- Omeo Show — \$1,844.49
- Pakenham Show — \$19,407.93
- Port Fairy Show — \$8,262.40
- Rutherglen Show — \$9,090.91
- Sale Show — \$14,485.53
- Seymour Show — \$15,000.00
- Sheepvention Rural Expo — \$70,000.00
- Shepparton Show — \$70,000.00
- South Gippsland Dairy Expo — \$5,888.72
- St Arnaud Show — \$11,450.38
- Sunbury Show — \$4,757.64
- Swan Hill Show — \$6,014.43
- Tallangatta Farming Expo — \$2,611.00
- Royal Melbourne Show — \$3,256,083.00
- Traralgon Show — \$10,000.00
- Wandin-Silvan Field Days — \$15,000.00
- Wangaratta Show — \$9,317.55
- Warracknabeal Show — \$10,000.00
- Warrnambool Show — \$22,794.68
- Whittlesea Show — \$40,202.44
- Yarram Show — \$3,987.35
- Yarrawonga Show — \$3,777.70
- Yea Show — \$10,000.00
- Yulecart Show — \$698.36





VAS Ltd  
Newsletter

# Showing Victoria

## 2021 VAS Ltd Convention

VAS Ltd aim to hold a 2021 Convention on the last weekend in June. Make sure you save the date!

More details will be released once confirmed.



## VAS Ltd 2019/20 Annual Report

The VAS Ltd Annual Report has been made available in the Members Area on the VAS Website. Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the Convention, VAS has been unable to hold our annual AGM. VAS Board aims to have an AGM as soon as we can and hard copies can be provide to Societies upon request.



*Victorian Agricultural Shows Limited*

**2019/20  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



## Christmas Office Hours

Please note that the VAS Ltd Office will be closed from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Phone message service & emails will be monitored and answered as necessary during this period.

On behalf of the VAS Board of Directors and Staff I wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

*Lets hope 2021 is a much better year for the Victorian Shows & Field Days*

**Rod Bowles**  
**VAS Ltd Executive Officer**

## Changes to the VAS Ltd Competitions for Spring 2021 / Autumn 2022

### VAS Senior & Junior Photography Subject Change

New Subject: Animal/s in Action  
This theme will be used for two  
years



### VAS Sewing Competition Change

Wearable vest, fully lined with  
embellishments allowed, sewn by  
machine.



### VAS Crochet Competition Change

A 3D item, no larger than 50cm  
on any one side.



The changes to the 2020/21 VAS Ltd State Competitions as stated in the competition kit that was released in April 2020 will not be introduced until the 2021 Spring Show Season, which will be detailed in the 2021/22 Competition Kit. For Autumn Shows that may be held in 2021 you will use the 2019/20 Competition Kit.

*Thank you to Gallagher Insurance for the support of Victorian  
Agricultural Shows and if you have any questions please do not hesitate  
to contact them as they are there to help you.*

*Contact Bronia on 08 8172 8024*



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