



VICTORIAN AGRICULTURAL SHOWS LTD

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2021

Chairpersons Report – Jenny Daffy



Hi All,

As we battle through the challenges that COVID-19 has created to us all, it is pleasing to see that some Shows & Field Days are starting to be held again and have demonstrated that they can meet the requirements of the State Government with abiding by the regulations for events and public gatherings. Due to the cancellation of so many Shows some additional Horse events have been accepted as affiliates for this year only at this point to provide enough opportunities for Horse exhibitors to gain their required qualifications for the 2021 Royals and other major horse industry events.

The VAS Ltd Board are currently reviewing the affiliation of pony clubs and solely ran horse events. As there has been an increased number of applicants for affiliation the Board intends to create a fair rate of affiliation in comparison to long standing established Agricultural Shows and there will be further discussion and recommendations to be presented at the 2021 VAS Council meeting on this matter.

The VAS Ltd Board decided that the next gathering for Members will be the 2021 Convention as it was agreed it was not worth the risk in bringing Members together too soon and hopefully by the end of June the management of the Virus will be more contained. Further to obtaining quotes from Taylors Lakes, Bendigo & Geelong conference venues, Bendigo was chosen for its central location and being in a regional area away from the metropolitan area where the virus has been more active. The All-Seasons Resort in Bendigo is a fantastic venue with all the necessary requirements for a fantastic weekend.

Prior to Christmas the Federal Government paid out almost \$34 million to 378 Agricultural Shows & Field days which I know come as a great relief to the Members that applied. Victoria had 77 successful applicants which received \$4.6 million as part of the first round of funding. The Government during February contacted the applicants that did not claim their full entitlement to apply again for the balance as there was \$4m left in the fund to distribute. Applications closed towards the end of February with outcome to be announced in the coming weeks. VAS Ltd together with the ASA are very much aware of the cancelled Shows in 2021. Additional lobbying of the Government is constantly happening as several Shows in NSW & QLD have also been affected but ineligible through the previous round of grants as it was specifically for 2020 cancelled Shows. The definition of a cancelled Show was the annual Show not held in its usual format of public attendance. If a Society ran a scaled down event or online, they were still eligible to apply for funds. VAS Ltd also lobbied the State Government Agricultural Minister for assistance but it was acknowledged that the Federal Government had funding opportunities in place to assist cancelled Shows. Members will be updated if any future funding opportunities arise.

The State Government Agricultural & Pastoral Society grants program was supported strongly with over 65 applications for the annual \$300,000. Outcomes of the applications will be announced very soon as recommendations are with the Agricultural Minister for approval.

The annual process of calling for applications for the VAS Ltd Board of Directors is now available with applications closing in writing with the Company Secretary by the 30th April 2021. Four positions are up for rotation and an election to be held if there are more applicants than positions available. Please contact the Executive Officer/Company Secretary if you would like more information regarding the requirements of becoming a Director.

In closing best wishes to the Shows and events starting to be held again and I hope to see as many delegates and Show representatives as possible at the Convention in June.

Many thanks - Jenny Daffy



**Friday 25th & Saturday 26th
June 2021**

All Seasons - Bendigo

Hosted by the VAS Ltd Board



Largest gathering of Victorian Agricultural Show delegates for the year and a great weekend to network and take ideas back to your Show Society.

Registration Forms & Timetable will be available soon:
www.vicagshows.com.au/convention

Convention

Plans are well underway for the 2021 VAS Ltd Convention being held in Bendigo at the All Seasons Resort/Hotel.

In Victoria this is our largest gathering of Victorian Agricultural Show delegates for the year and a great weekend to network and take ideas back to your Show Society.

Subcommittee meetings will be held for Livestock, Horse, Homecrafts & OH&S, which is a chance to bring up new ideas and suggestions.

The convention also features the State Final competitions of the Junior Show Ambassador, Carrot Cake and Carrot & Date Muffins, which winners will be announced at the Convention Dinner on the Saturday night.

A series of workshops will be held on the Saturday, which will include topics of interest such as COVID Safe Planning, Marketing, Insurance & OH&S.

More information will be available soon, but we encourage Show Societies to at least send one representative to attend as it is a weekend full of valuable information.

Convention Competitions

Pin Cushion

Maximum base size 15cm on any one side, any medium, any technique, 2 entries per Society only.



Cooking Competition – Yo-Yo's

Plate of 4, own recipe - weigh mixture into 15 gm balls before cooking. To be displayed on white plates only. One plate per Exhibitor, 2 entries per Society only.





Meritorious Awards

A VAS Ltd Meritorious award is recognition for service to the Agricultural Show movement and in particular Victorian Agricultural Shows Ltd. Meritorious Awards are for individuals whose contribution has been either long and outstanding to VAS Ltd including the three (3) levels of VAS Ltd or beyond, eg: Local, Group and VAS Ltd Committees or Board.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

1. Must be, but not limited to being, a financial member, honorary or Life member of an Agricultural Show affiliated with VAS Ltd.
2. Hold or has held an Executive position or assisted heavily in their local show and Group **in a voluntary position.**
3. Has made a significant voluntary contribution to benefit an affiliated Show Society.
4. Demonstrate leadership qualities which inspire enthusiasm among others.
5. Provide names and addresses of two (2) referees on nomination form.

Nominations are due on the 30th April 2021, which written or emailed applications will be accepted by addressing the criteria for nomination and to be sent to: eo@vicagshows.com.au including a signature of the President or Secretary of the nominating Show/Group/VAS Ltd.

Board Nominations



Nominations are Open for the VAS Ltd Board

Must be nominated by two voting delegates from two different affiliated members.

Nomination form is available from the VAS Ltd Office and will be supplied to all affiliated members.

More information contact the VAS Ltd Office
Nominations Close 30th April 2021
Send to: eo@vicagshows.com.au

Affiliations

DUE DATE

VAS Affiliation

**Form & Payment Due:
31st March 2020**

VAS would appreciate if Show Societies can aim towards this date, so it does not hold up processes such as to be included in publications & promotional material you must provide updated details.

A fillable PDF of the affiliation form is available in the members area on the website.



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 in conjunction with the RASV and a State Final will be held at the 2021 Royal Melbourne Show. More details will come regarding these arrangements.

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. The 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 jump on the ASA website: <https://agshowsaustralia.org.au/youth-in-agriculture/australian-young-farmer-challenge/>



2021/22 Show Theme



2021 Spring / 2022 Autumn Show Theme



After the year 2020 we have all experienced, the theme for the 2021/22 Show Season is 'Back Bigger & Better'.

VAS Ltd hopes that all Shows can get up and running and put on an event that is bigger & better.

Whether the year off has brought new and innovative ideas to the committee or the passion and love for the Show has grown stronger because we missed attending or organising a show, we hope that we are all 'Back Bigger & Better'.



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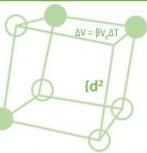
Showing Victoria

Suppliers & Entertainers

After the cancellation of 2020 we are hoping we can get our 2021 Show Season underway. VAS Ltd also wants to support Suppliers/Entertainers and promote you to our members as we are aware of what a tough year it has been. VAS Ltd is delighted to offer you a range of advertising options to promote your business to all Victorian Show Societies.

For more information go to

<http://www.vicagshows.com.au/suppliers-entertainment>



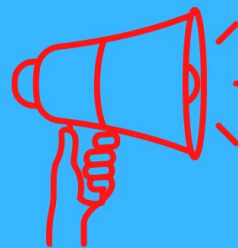
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A list of
Suppliers &
Entertainment
options is now
available on the
VAS Ltd Website
for all Show
Societies to use
if they are
looking to start
planning their
2021 event.



Show/Field Days News

Elmore & District Machinery Field Days

The Elmore & District Machinery Field Days is looking forward to reigniting in 2021, with the annual event scheduled to take place on October 5th, 6th & 7th. The committee have been working hard behind the scenes planning and workshopping ideas on how to host a COVID safe event in 2021.

The feedback from both exhibitors and the public has been positive, with all involved excited to get agricultural field days like ours up and running again after a quiet year at home.

Registrations and expressions of interest will be open from April, with a brand-new portal for our exhibitors to enjoy.



Castlemaine & District Agricultural Society Inc.

The past year has been difficult for all Show Societies at Castlemaine we cancelled our 2 events, which were the April Feature Show and our Main Agricultural Show in October 2020.

We are so grateful to the Government for allowing us to apply for funding. \$10,000 we received which has already helped pay our VAS affiliation. We also obtained a \$3500 grant from our local Shire Mt Alexander but seeing we had not spent that on our 2020 Show it had to be refunded January 2021.

Our Society have done our COVID Safe plan with the State Government and the Shire and hopefully our Annual Feature Show will go ahead as planned on April 18th, 2021.

This Feature Show is for Pure Bred Clydesdales including foals, fillies, mares, and geldings and also a ring accommodating Cross Bred Clydesdales, long reining and driven small horse harness classes for the Miniatures and Shetlands.

A ring also for Miniature Ponies, Miniature Horses, Small Horses. As well as Shetlands 8.2 hands and under, 9.2 hands and under and 10.2 hands and under.

Judging starts at 10.30 am and the admission fee is \$5 gate entry per adult and children free. For entry it is \$5 per horse per class. No extra fees for floats and vehicles.





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Showing Victoria

Show/Field Days News

Mansfield Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CAMPDRAFTING IN MANSFIELD

The Mansfield Agricultural & Pastoral Society had the double whammy in 2020 of being forced to not only cancel its annual show in November but also its campdraft in March.

Almost 12 months later after the start of the COVID Pandemic restrictions in Victoria, the committee is upbeat and working hard with preparations for the annual Mansfield Campdraft to be held the weekend of March 20 & 21. It will also mark the 50th year of when the Mansfield A&P Society hosted the first campdraft at the showgrounds in May 1971.

Drought and lack of cattle has forced the cancellation of the event in previous years, but no one expected the long-lasting impact of COVID-19. The cancellation of the campdraft so close to the date was heartbreaking for committee members who spent many hours preparing the grounds which included installing new panels around the arena for increased safety. Many other campdrafts throughout Victoria and NSW were forced to cancel as well.

President, of the Mansfield A&P Society, Amanda Swaney, is an enthusiastic advocate of the event, “Campdrafting is one of the fastest growing equestrian sports in Australia. The competition is full of drama and is a wonderful combination of horse and rider skill, speed, and experience. We are delighted to be able to host this event in 2021 and to acknowledge the hard work and enthusiasm that has gone into running the campdraft over the last 50 years.”

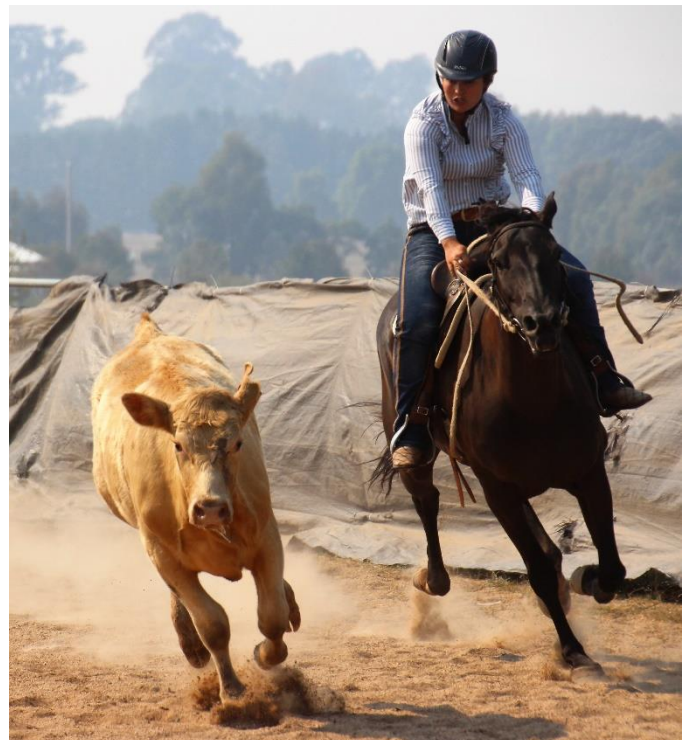
Many committee members and supporters will be involved in the catering over the two days which provides some fundraising for the society. Adherence to a COVID Safe Plan means extra tasks especially around cleaning facilities and ensuring the wellbeing and safety of all but everyone is delighted they can finally run an event. Campdrafting is also a great family-friendly event attracting riders of all ages.

Given COVID restrictions celebrations are limited but a special display featuring stories and photos of previous campdrafts will provide an opportunity for competitors and committee members to reminisce and share their memories over the weekend.

Lynn Elder – Secretary - Mansfield A&P Society.

Caption: One of many female competitors in action at the 2019 Mansfield Campdraft. This photo also won first place in the Open Photography Sport's section at the 2019 Mansfield Show.

PHOTO CREDIT: Lynn Elder





Show/Field Days News

Berwick & District A & H Society Inc.

A NEW, DIFFERENT AND INNOVATIVE 2021 BERWICK SHOW

“Even though things had to be done different this year”, President Paul Hamilton believes the show was a big success.

Exhibitors submitted almost 500 online entries across 5 sections – Art, Photography, Cooking and Craft, Horticulture and Poultry. The online concept allowed us to widen the opportunity for exhibitors from regional, interstate and overseas. In an endeavour to spread the word about our online show competition the President thought he was emailing the local Berwick Garden Group but instead it was Berwick, England. They were enthusiastic about the concept and entered our Horticulture section – and won first in the class for Foliage plants. Our expectations were exceeded as we welcomed many new exhibitors to our show from both local and regional areas of Victoria and far reaching as Adelaide, India, Nairobi and England.

Many of us shared and learnt new technology skills in an effort to be involved and make it happen, including from other Agricultural Societies. The entries were collated and transferred to the judges also from various areas of the state. “It was exciting and something new and innovative and I am happy to be invited and to be involved” said Cooking and Craft judge Gwenda Preston. “It certainly was different judging online rather than in person, but it was important for the community to still have somewhere to submit their work and showcase their talents”.

We have had lots of positive feedback, “Once we have done it once, I’m sure a lot of people will be looking forward to doing it again”. Although many are looking forward to returning to show their exhibits in person it has chairpersons thinking of how to incorporate some online classes in future shows.

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions it was decided to hold an ‘On the Farm’ competition in early December and an onsite Livestock Exhibitor Only event. The ‘On the Farm’ Cattle Competition was pleasingly supported and will most likely grow in numbers next year. On the 27th February, Cattle and Sheep exhibitors came to the beautiful grounds of Akoonah Park for the onsite competitions albeit with COVID-19 controls. It was a glorious day weather wise and although the buzz of the public was missing, there was plenty of excitement in the rings with approx. 200 quality entries. The sponsors and exhibitors undeniably welcomed the competitions but equally relished the comradery.

We have utilised social media and all the entries online have been loaded onto our website together with winners from our livestock event. Whilst it has been a somewhat difficult year both emotionally and financially as the crowds were not queuing at the gate, the satisfaction that together committee, sponsors, exhibitors, and the community have achieved innovative results for the 2021 Berwick Show despite adversity will no doubt be talked about in future years.

It now time to celebrate, reflect and set our sights and positive energy on our 2022 Berwick Show.

Margaret Boon - Secretary





Show/Field Days News

Farm World – Lardner Park

IT'S THE FIRST BIG FIELD DAY EVENT FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR AND FARM WORLD ORGANISERS HAVE PULLED OUT ALL STOPS TO MAKE IT A MUST ATTEND EVENT

We are very excited to announce that Lardner Park achieved approval for the first Tier 3 - Public Event Permit - with unseated crowds in the state since the COVID outbreak and shutdown in 2020. Let the show begin. First up for the major Field Days 2021 is Farm World with its innovative program capturing the hearts of exhibitors and visitors wanting to show their support of the event. Farm World will be a 3-day event – running from Friday to Sunday on 26 to 28 March. Demand has been very strong with ticket sales and patrons should book at www.lardnerpark.com.au to avoid disappointment.

The Lardner Park board and the management team of Farm World have made many changes and innovations to the 2021 event, they are introducing what is expected to be new crowd-pleasing exhibits and moving demonstrations of farm vehicles and equipment.

Lardner Park chief executive Craig Debnam said, “After surveying all Exhibitors we received an overwhelmingly positive response of over 91% wanting to attend, while the remaining 9% simply can’t attend due to international travel restrictions.” “With our Return to Heritage theme, we have also reintroduced demonstrations for key Ag exhibitors including Ag Dealers and Industry distributors but importantly, farmers and families will remain a key focus of our activations, as will community and safety.

Let’s take a look at some of the crowd pleasers that Farm World is presenting at its 2021 event.

Friday 26th March 2021 9am to 5pm - Farmers Day

- Live demonstrations in a dedicated paddock will showcase the most popular tractor models, along with latest release implements that combine to save farmers valuable time making their farm productive.
- Everyone in attendance will gain some great insights into life today on a farm and see what role farm tractors and equipment play in running a successful farm operation.
- Make sure you catch the supposed “friendly” competition between dealers and farmers who will be matching skills backing a trailer on a tractor and will also have to drive through a tough obstacle course.

Saturday 27th March 2021 10am to 7pm – Twilight Trading Day

- Organisers are introducing a **Twilight trading day**, on Saturday with a 10am start and 7pm finish where all visitors will be presented with a wide array of lifestyle exhibitors.
- Organisers understand farming can be a lonely and isolated existence, so Farm World 2021 wants to offer an opportunity for a get together between exhibitors and farmers and share farming stories, successes and challenges.

Sunday 28th March 2021 9am to 4pm – Farming Families Day

- The last day of the Farm World event will have a Farming family’s theme, highlighting more of the lifestyle and leisure exhibitors and picking up a bargain on the final day.
- It wouldn’t be **Farm World** without a huge variety of animals. You can chat with the cattle breeders in the new “Cattle Corner” and check out the different breeds, watch the kelpie dogs round up sheep, chat to an alpaca, or trek the track with a pony ride.





Grant Tips

Normally it is not a busy time of the year for majority of Shows, but plans are underway usually for your annual event, but it is also important to prioritise grant applications and the wish list for your Show Society. Many opportunities come up throughout the year and it is a good idea to be prepared so make sure you keep an eye out for grants.

It is a good idea to have a discussion within your committee meeting and draw up a small list of projects/items which would help your show or venue.

Below is a list of grants that you may like to keep watch for:

- State Government Agricultural & Pastoral Society Infrastructure Grants – Available in second half of 2021
- Shire/Council Community Grants for various amounts
- Community Bank
- Federal Volunteer Grants – Available in first half of 2021
- Victorian Shade Grants Program



Tips for your application:

- Provide all information required at the time of applying.
- If your project is similar to a previous application change the wording of the project to reflect differently.
- Make sure you have firm quotes attached, as previous round of grants too many just googled and printed off information or a picture of what they wanted to do without providing a quote for the project.
- Read the guidelines carefully and make sure your project fits the criteria.
- Don't exaggerate outcomes or in-kind effort costs.
- Only apply for grants that you think your Show Society can deliver.

Make sure your application is one of the good ones!

Upcoming Group Finals

As we slowly start to get back on track with our normal year, Groups are starting to get organised to run their Group Final for 2021. Group Finals this year will take winners from the Spring 2019, Autumn 2020 & Autumn 2021.

Below is a list of when each Group intend on running their Group Final and some Groups are yet to make that decision. All competitors eligible for their respective Group Final will be contacted by their Group Secretary with all the details for their Group Final.

Central & South Gippsland – To be advised.

Central & Upper Goulburn Group – A meeting will be held on the 11th April to decide on the Group Finals.

Gippsland Group – To be advised.

Goulburn Valley Group – 17th April 2021

Midlands Group – 23rd April 2021

Murray Valley Group – To be advised.

North Eastern Group – 28th March 2021

Northern District Group – 18th April 2021

South Western Group – To be advised.

Western District Group – Group Final already held in 2020.

Wimmera Group – Group Final already held in 2019/20.



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.

The Competition Kit for 2021/22 will be released early May.

*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.*

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