



VICTORIAN AGRICULTURAL SHOWS LTD

**NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2020**



Chairpersons Report – Jenny Daffy

Hi All,

Well what a disastrous year 2020 has turned out to be with our State calendar of Shows being cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions which has been devastating to the Agricultural Show & Field Days world.

I guess many of us were hoping that Covid-19 would only be a short-term problem and not be so impacting as it has been when it started in March. I fully support and respect the Societies for their difficult decisions in cancelling Shows but there was no other option. For the next few months at this stage there is no certainty of getting back to having large public gatherings in the near future either.

For the VAS Board & office staff it has been business as usual in a different way with regular online Board meetings held, supporting Members with response to ongoing issues and lobbying for political support from the State Government which has starting to come together with a planned meeting with the Agricultural Minister in the next couple of weeks.

Unfortunately, the annual Convention weekend was unable to be held but as soon as restrictions allow, a VAS Council meeting will be held incorporating the 2020 VAS Ltd AGM. The annual financial audit has been completed and the Board has approved the audited reports and a full copy of the VAS Ltd Annual report is available on the VAS website in the Members area. Please note: All Society Secretaries will be emailed a copy.

During this time of restrictions some Societies have been innovative running some online competitions, facebook interaction keeping people connected to their Society. There have been suggestions come forward of what Societies can be doing for example: Getting quotes and preparing an application to the State Government Agricultural & Pastoral Society Grants program. Information will be circulated in the coming weeks. Reviewing sponsorship packages, OH&S documentation, and any other Show related items.

Unfortunately, the 2021 January VAS Saddle Horse Championships has been postponed and under review for a future date due to Covid-19 restrictions. This is a very difficult decision to make but with uncertain times its best to provide plenty of notice for all concerned.

Death of Agriculturalists – Unfortunately, the course of nature sees many of our dedicated volunteers pass away from this world. The VAS Board encourages you to notify the office of any Committee Members or former delegates that pass on to be put on record for acknowledgement to a future meeting.

Let's hope that the coming months improve, and we can all have some assurance of getting back to some level of normal life that allows our very important annual events to be conducted again.

Many thanks
Jenny Daffy



Victorian Shows Go Online!

VAS Ltd is encouraging all shows to try and run online competitions to ensure you continue to have engagement with your local community and with the absence of the traditional annual show it is an opportunity to keep the interest in your local community. A range of Shows are starting to conduct a series of online competitions and below are some ideas of what your Show might like to run.

ABC Victoria's Virtual Show

With agricultural shows being cancelled across the board this year, ABC Victoria conducted a virtual show.

On Thursday morning the 10th of September between 10 and 11am, they hosted the virtual country show on the radio and all results have now been released with a total of 600 entries across the seven categories.

Check out the photos of some of the winning entries on the VAS Ltd Website.

Categories:

- **Best Scones** (four on a plate, one broken open, one upside down)
- **Best Decorated Cupcake**
- **Best homemade face mask** (you can model it if you like!)
- **Best Pet** (Don't forget to tell us a little about why your pet is so special)
- **Best Floral Arrangement**
- **Best home grown fruit and/or vegetable** (you can feature one, or if you grow a lot of stuff, show us a plate of your home grown produce)
- **Best limerick** about Coronavirus (or what you're looking forward to about coming out of lockdown)



Beaufort Show Holds Successful Online Competition

The Beaufort Show has held an online Lego Competition that has attracted a new record of 60 entries. In the last 15 years at the traditional annual show held, the largest number of Lego entries would have been 25 entries in one year.

The competition sections were re-organised from 3 to 6 separate classes to accommodate the increased number of entries. Each entrant sent in photos of their entry, which was themed around an Agricultural Show. The two photos supplied by the Beaufort Show are Lego display entries of the woodchop and the crowd watching the motorbikes in the stands. "There will be a display in an empty Beaufort shop window of all 60 photos of the entries – definitely worth a look," said James Kirkpatrick, the Show President.

Prizes were awarded to the first 3 placegetters in each section, although place cards and ribbons were awarded to 6th because the standard of entries were so high. The Society is grateful for sponsorship from Goldwind who are building the Stockyard Hill Windfarm. Goldwind generously supplied drink bottles to everyone who entered that did not place in the first three places.

By the time you promote the competition, it closes, judge it and display it – it is about a 4-week task. We will have an October and November competition as well. The Beaufort Show encourages other Show Societies to try and conduct some sort of competition as it maintains visibility within your community. They are also sharing the workload as a different team of volunteers will handle the next competition, which is 4 decorated cup cakes (5 sections in age groups) – 2 photos to be sent in one with the entrant and the cakes – proof of production and one –(or two views) of just the cakes for the judges.





Victorian Shows Go Online!



Swan
Hill
Show

Presents...

A mini pavilion competition to run for the entire month of September 2020

Entrants are asked to make an item from the list below, then drop the entry off to Lillypilly Lane Fabrics. Ensure your entry is enclosed in a zip lock bag with your name and phone number attached.

- Face Mask Suitable for Covid
 - Knitted/Crochet beanie - red to represent Covid
 - Handmade bookmark – open to 18 years and under
- 2 entries per category, per person

Prizes will be awarded to the winners. Entries close and are due in to Lillypilly Lane Fabrics, by September 30th 2020.

Winners will be announced on October 3rd 2020

The Swan Hill Show is also running an online photography competition during September. For more information please head to www.swanhillshow.com.au



Swan Hill Cattle Hoof & Hook Competition Sunday 4th October 2020

This event will be held in Swan Hill, Victoria and all exhibitors are welcome to enter! For more details on the logistics of the event we encourage competitors to contact the Swan Hill Show Office via email at secretary@swanhillshow.com.au



1 May - 27 September 2020
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The Horsham Agricultural Society is running a virtual agricultural show – **the first in Victoria!** The same week they cancelled their traditional show, they launched their virtual show on May 1st which is open till their official show date of September 27. With no template, the plans to develop a virtual show were made on the run.

Their show now has ten parts to it Virtual Pavilion Exhibits, Virtual Market, Backyard Chook Show, Virtual Animal Nursery, Craft Workshops via Zoom, Facebook Photo Challenge, Facebook Rebus Challenge, Online Showbag Competition, Facebook Concert during Show week and on Show Day and Contactless Fleece Competition (2021).

Their priority has been to keep connected to the community and on Facebook alone they have seen an increase of followers by 15%. However, creating a virtual show, doesn't earn any money.

Nobody will be coming through the gates and sponsors have dropped from 82 sponsors to six and three of them are new!

The Virtual Horsham Show will conclude with a Zoom After Party on October 2 a week after the Show which will see winners announced via Facebook on Show Day.

If your show is holding an online competition VAS would love to help promote it for you. Either send us the details or tag Victorian Agricultural Shows in your Facebook Post Promotion of your competition and we will share it to our Facebook & add it to the website.



VAS Ltd
Newsletter

Showing Victoria

Get ready to Share your Ag Show Memories!

Over the course of the Spring Show Season VAS wants everyone to get ready to share their photos, memories & stories from Agricultural Shows around Victoria. Anyone can share their memories with VAS from individual Show Societies to exhibitors to committee members to passionate show enthusiasts.

Every Monday & Thursday leading up to the normal annual show dates for each individual show you will be able to post photos, videos, written memories or stories onto these posts that will then be collected to be shared all weekend on the normal annual Show dates for whole Spring Show Season.

So, scroll through your camera roll or flip through the photo albums and be ready to share your ag show memories. More details will be posted on our Facebook and Website.

VIC AG SHOWS MEMORIES

#Vicagshowsmemories

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

2020-21 Agricultural & Pastoral Society Grants

The Victorian Government is making \$300,000 available for Society Grants again this year. VAS Ltd thanks the State Government for their support again.

Grants up to \$10,000 per society can be applied for to cover the development or upgrade of facilities and amenities at the showgrounds and improvements to business activities and greater community involvement in show activities.

More information will be released in the coming weeks but please start brainstorming/planning with your Show Society, so you have an idea ready to apply when applications open.

Supporting Agricultural Shows Funding

It will provide one-off payments to agricultural show societies to reimburse their 2020 fixed expenses. All agricultural shows cancelled in 2020 because of COVID-19 are eligible for assistance.

You will be able to claim reimbursements for fixed expenses:

- up to \$10,000 for small shows (attendance was less than 2,000)
- up to \$15,000 for medium shows (attendance was between 2,000 and 4,999)
- up to \$70,000 for large shows (attendance was over 5,000).

You may be reimbursed for: bank fees, utilities, rates, insurance, fire alarms and equipment, cleaning supplies, telecommunications, IT system licencing costs, website costs, state or national show body affiliation fees and rent.

It is anticipated that applications will open in September 2020, with payments commencing soon afterwards. You will be notified by ASA and VAS once applications are open.



Australian Government



VAS Ltd
Newsletter

Showing Victoria

Keeping Connected with your Show Committee & Volunteers

Leading up to the normal spring show season many committee members & volunteers are usually at this time starting to prepare for their annual Show. For many preparing for the annual show is a highlight of the year and enjoy getting to see everyone and be apart of the community event.

It is important to make sure you check in with all members either by sending off an email to all the committee with updates, touching base through social media, having online meetings to catch up or making the effort to ring members that may not have access to these platforms.

For a Show Committee it may also be motivating to start to look to 2021 by getting stewards to review how their section operates such as section budgets, review show schedule, add or create new competitions. It is also a perfect opportunity to make sure your website and social media sites are up to date.



VAS Ltd 2019/20 Annual Report

The VAS Ltd Annual Report has been made available on 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. We aim to have an AGM as soon as we are able to and will provide hard copies to societies on request.



Victorian Agricultural Shows Limited

2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT



National Agriculture Day Friday 20th November 2020

With so many shows cancelled this year, an AgDay Long Table Lunch is the perfect opportunity to bring the community together and showcase your region's finest agricultural produce. AgDay Coordinator Charlie Thomas said, "Some communities may choose to invite locals to bring their own table and chairs and a picnic, others may opt to provide the seating and a lunch featuring local produce.

To express your Show's interest in hosting an AgDay Long Table Lunch, register your details at <https://www.agday.org.au/register-event>

By registering an expression of, interest, you will receive an AgDay Long Table Lunch Guideline document which outlines tips for hosting a successful AgDay event and current stated-based COVID-19 safe information.

AgDay Long Lunch





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 receive an adjusted Competition Kit reflecting the 2019/20 State Competitions.

*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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