



The Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand
(Incorporated pursuant to the Agricultural & Pastoral Act 1908)



Annual Report & Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ending March 31, 2019

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand**

will be at the Devon Hotel, New Plymouth at 4.00pm, Saturday 22 June 2019

AGM Business

- receive and adopt the Annual Report;
- receive and adopt the audited Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Financial Position for the previous financial year;
- elect Officers and Honorary Life Members;
- elect the Executive (as applicable)
- appoint an auditor;
- review any levies;
- consider any business or proposed resolution of notice has been given;
- discuss any recommendations from the Equestrian Meeting and the United Breed Society Meeting;
- receive a report on remits or any postal ballots;
- transact any general business.

THE RAS ANNUAL DINNER

To be held at the Devon Hotel, New Plymouth at 6.45pm on Saturday 22 June 2019.



Thanks, goes to sponsors and supporters:

 			
			
PUB CHARITY		THE SOUTHERN TRUST	

Strategic Partner – Harcourts



**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
Officers**

PATRON

Her Excellency, Dame Patsy Reddy

PAST PRESIDENTS

Sir William Perry Kt	(1923-1931)	L.R.C. Macfarlane MC	(1931-1934)
L.J. Wild CBE. OBE	(1934-1945)	B.E. Keiller CMG	(1945-1952)
J.S. Marshall	(1952-1958)	M.S. Rennie OBE	(1958-1966)
J.H. Rutherford CBE	(1966-1972)	D.M. MacDonald	(1972-1975)
D.L. Ensor	(1975-1978)	J.L. Herrick	(1978-1980)
I.A. Barnett	(1980-1983)	T.M.R. Maskew OBE	(1983-1986)
H.D. Treadwell QSM	(1986-1989)	J.G. Gunn MNZM	(1989-1992)
W.C. Scott ONZM	(1992-1995)	K.G. McKenzie	(1995-1998)
I.R.F. McKelvie	(1998-2002)	P.G. King	(2002-2005)
M.G. Lester	(2005-2009)	B.L. Orr MNZM	(2009-2013)
J.M. Grigg	(2013-2015)		

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent

G.I.C. McDouall OBE (Wanganui)	1970	E.W. Sadlier (Gore)	1980
H.D. Treadwell QSM (Taupo)	1992	R.S. Mackenzie MBE MC (Akaroa)	1994
J.G. Gunn MNZM (Darfield)	1996	E.M. Chittock (Gore)	1997
H.D. Chittock (Alexandra)	1997	F.W. Arnold MNZM (Pukekohe)	1998
W.C. Scott ONZM (Morrinsville)	1999	K.G. McKenzie (Invercargill)	2002
M.F. Vernon (Christchurch)	2003	J.R. Bruce (Ashburton)	2004
I.R.F. McKelvie (Palmerston North)	2005	R F James (Springfield)	2006
K Cholmondely-Smith (Kumeu)	2006	C.J Mason (Whangarei)	2006
W.D Mitchell (Wyndham)	2008	N. Hutchinson (Banks Peninsula)	2009
R Tilsley MNZM (Auckland)	2010	A Paratene QSM, QPM (Orewa)	2010
B.L Orr MNZM (Tauranga)	2013	M.G Lester (Hawkes Bay)	2014
M McKerrow (Whangarei)	2014	P.G King (Hawkes Bay)	2015

PRESIDENT: G.R Smith (Pukekohe)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

HONORARY TREASURER:

CEO:

ADMINISTRATOR:

EXECUTIVE: C O'Connor (Te Awamutu), K. Allison (Outram), B.Snellex (Rangiora), M Jebson QSM (Darfield), Rachel Walker (Mosgiel)

VICE PRESIDENT: B.W. Snellex (Rangiora)

J.M Grigg (Hororata)

B.W Snellex (Rangiora)

D.A Cameron (Rangiora)

C.M Roberts (Oxford)

UNITED BREEDS SOCIETY 2018 - 2019

CHAIRMAN: R. Bradly (Helensville) **EXECUTIVE:** A. Windle (Shannon), M. Fleming (Canterbury), I Stevenson (Cheviot), P. Gilbert (Ashburton).

HORSE STEWARDS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2018 – 2019

Chairman: A. Windle (Shannon)

RAS Equestrian: C O'Connor (Te Awamutu)

Measuring Convenor: J. Fleet (Pukekohe); **Clean Sport Convenor:** M. Mulligan (Palmerston North); **Judge's Convenor:** C O'Connor co-opted (Te Awamutu)

The Society also gratefully acknowledges the assistance it receives from

HONORARY ADVISOR:

Prof. R.A. Anderson (Palmerston North)

MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND SPONSORS OF THE SOCIETY

This is the last report for my term as President of the RAS, and the finish of my service firstly on the Executive then as Vice President.

Before any other comment, I wish to acknowledge the tremendous contribution made to this organisation by the CEO, Debbie Cameron, and Administrator, Christine Roberts. They have contributed way beyond any job description, making a large personal and voluntary contribution which is not necessarily known by the owner members. Thank you both for your professional and personal support during my time on the Executive and especially during the last three years as President. I value the friendship that has developed.

Debbie and Christine do this work with the support of their husbands, Nigel and Wayne, whom I would also like to acknowledge for their support and understanding.

As a relative new-comer to the movement I quickly came to appreciate the need for A&P Shows and have since become a strong advocate for their importance as a platform to showcase agricultural excellence. Of course these shows are only possible because of a huge number of people who share that same belief and are prepared to contribute both voluntarily and by providing services to ensure the shows continue.

You may recall during John Grigg's time as President (my predecessor), there was a suggestion that the Agricultural and Pastoral Societies Act of 1908 would be subsumed into the review of the Incorporated Societies Act. John worked hard on gaining the support of both the then Minister, Nathan Guy and MPI, to retain our Act. With a change of government, we requested the same support. I wrote a submission to the new Minister of Agriculture, and recently Debbie and I met with the Hon. Damien O'Conner and representatives of MPI.

As I have reported at District meetings, we were pleased to be assured of his support for retaining the Act and for A&P Shows. We have some work to do to build a plan of how we, and the government, can work together. Which of course leads naturally to

the topic of a strategic plan and gathering information to be able to report on the valuable contribution A&P Shows make.

In the past, the Executive has produced the RAS Strategic Plan. However, this time we decided the plan actually belonged to the owners of the RAS and they should be the main contributors. They would be responsible for its achievement.

Thanks to Executive member Rachel Walker, who at last conference facilitated a session where all the ideas had been pulled together resulting in the 'Strategy on a Page'. This was sent to Districts and we look forward to seeing their contribution to the Plan. They will focus on three key priorities, rather than spreading resources too thin; note what they will actually do and how they will measure success.

At the Districts and Executive meeting in March, it was agreed that progress on strategy would be a priority on meeting agenda.

Equestrian is a significant part of most shows. The competitors growing demands and expectations are becoming increasingly challenging. And we are not the only equestrian organisation to experience that.

In a positive move for the RAS, Equestrian Sport NZ and Pony Clubs NZ, the three organisations have agreed to work together on a number of matters common across our respective jurisdictions. Included are, biosecurity; microchipping; health & safety; competitor behaviour; horse welfare; and the future of equestrian sport.

The Executive is most grateful to the Horse Stewards Council Executive – Cara O'Connor, Alan Windle, John Fleet and Maxine Mulligan for the expertise and knowledge they bring to specific equestrian areas and their dedication to the Showing Movement.

For the last 7 years I have travelled to Australia to support our Rural Ambassador and Young Judges and Handlers in the Australasian Championship finals. My visit to Perth this year will see me having completed a full venue cycle of these valuable competitions for our young people.

I continue to be impressed by the calibre and commitment of those who come through to represent us, and then go on to become actively engaged in the A&P movement. I introduced the requirement for District Rural Ambassadors to automatically be a member of District Councils. I have also pressed for Councils to develop a Junior V.P opportunity for a youth member.

I acknowledge Eastern District for their support of youth and for creating the Junior V.P. position as a 'no ties, one year, give it a go' experience. Congratulations to Emma Pollitt, an enthusiastic supporter and youth representative for NZ, for her appointment to the role. I also acknowledge Northern District for bringing on 4 youth Councillors this year, enthusiastically led by the current Rural Ambassador, Courtney Davies.

There are three other young people who are deserving of mention. Tabitha Hazlett, Tryphena Carter and Rowan Sandford. Tabitha has been a great contributor, working to keep a network of youth engaged in providing ideas and advice. Although she will be busy with her young family, we hope she will maintain a connection. Rowan was also an original member of the Youth Council when it was reinstated. He has been responsible for running the Young Judges & Handler finals at the Royal Show in Hastings. Tryphena has also been a positive supporter of youth engagement. This will be the third year she has co-managed the NZ Youth Equestrian Team for the Tri Nations Competition.

The work that Philip and Kay Worthington (Central District) do to support and encourage youth in cattle showing is a model which others could well follow if they were truly serious about bring forward the next generation.

The Mb outbreak knocked shows around, however many came up with creative thinking to provide either some substitute activity or a way of exhibiting cattle. Many shows are determined to bring cattle back next season. Each show is unique so it is unlikely one solution will fit all. But sharing ideas and thinking is important to helping each other.

I owe some people a special vote of thanks. Hugh Treadwell, a past President, who gave me a copy of his book 'Show Time' which provided me detail of the RAS past to help me understand how it operated and inform my thinking for the future. Malcolm McKerrow who led the Task Force which provided a powerful insight for the future path of the RAS. Bruce Orr, a past President who has been a great supporter of shows, announcing and judging throughout the country. Bruce has provided personal support and shared a great deal of wisdom.

The late Kevin Cholmondeley – Smith who invested so much into equestrian and invited me in the early days to join the Sport Horse Promotion Board. He developed the Sport Horse Stallion Parades. Kevin was primarily instrumental, along with John Grigg, in the development of a standardised judging rulebook for RAS Equestrian, no mean feat getting all the factions and personalities to agree! He also organised the Tri- Nation Youth Equestrian competition. Kevin entrusted me with his thinking and vision and although I might not agree with everything, I do consider his trust a privilege.

In closing I note we are facing a couple of significant challenges. They result from the dynamic tension between origins of the movement and the need for shows to be economically viable. It has been suggested that we might move away from the Breed Societies determining schedules for shows.

There are some extreme views being expressed so it is important the owners make the extra effort to engage the thoughts of the Breed Societies. I believe the Executive and the United Breed Society Executive need to work very closely on this matter and facilitate discussions.

At this point it is timely to acknowledge the contribution of Richard Bradly who has been the United Breeds Chairperson for several years. Richard is stepping down this year in order to allow a member of the Next Generation, Ben Burgess, to take the Chair for a year before considering whether to put his name forward for a three-year term. Richard has agreed to mentor and support Ben for the year.

I would also like to acknowledge Peter Gilbert who has stepped down as the Dairy Chairperson and Alan Windle as the Equestrian Chairperson after several years. Thank you Peter and Alan for your contribution.

Another issue is whether or not non-affiliated organisations should have the right to use the showing platform created by the affiliated owners especially at the expense of affiliated owners being excluded.

In respect of such ideas, we ask, “What problems are these ideas the solution to?” It is often a common fault of not clearly identifying the problem and then being surprised when the proposed solution either fractures the organisation or simply creates more issues.

Finally, thank you to my colleague Executive members. The great thing about this team is you all have many ideas which you will argue strongly and well. But always you come to a consensus in the best interests of the organisation and work as a team to develop the decisions. None of our respective views are more important than the collective good. I have a huge respect for people who work that way in a collective/cooperative.

Thank you for the opportunity to be so integrally involved. It has been a great learning experience. To all the new office holders, I wish you well and thank you for stepping up to help lead the organisation into the future. To Brent Snellex, and his wife Lynne, I wish all the best for your term.

In the following pages I am pleased to report on the 2018/19 Royal A&P Show/Events, Rural Ambassador, Young Judging, Paraders and Golden Fleece Exhibition and the South Island Dairy Heifer Competition.



Hosted By:



The NZ Royal A&P Show is the premier event of the Royal Agricultural Society and a highlight on the agricultural calendar.

Hawkes Bay A&P Society entered their second term of hosting rights and continued the excellent work of the previous years.

Thank you to Simon Collin, President, the Hawkes Bay A&P committee, Sally Jackson, General Manager and her administrative team, and the many volunteers it takes to host an event of this size. A Show with a great atmosphere and a determination to show excellence.



Hosted By:

STRAFORD A&P ASSOCIATION

Stratford Show, well known for its dairy section, decided to step outside of that and host a Royal Equestrian Event. While entries were light in some sections the new medals and ribbons were very well received by the recipients. Thank you to President Ian McCaul, Show Manager Vicki Jagersma and their volunteers for flying the RAS flag as part of their Show.



Hosted By:

NELSON A&P ASSOCIATION

President, Wil Darling, Equestrian Convenor Liz Harvey, Show Manager Annette Robinson and their committee, and volunteers hosted a Royal Equestrian Event for the South Island competitors – this was well received by the competitors, as were the medals and ribbons. Thanks to all concerned for a great effort.



Hosted By:

OTAGO TAIERI A&P SOCIETY

Otago Taieri continued the trend of providing a Royal Equestrian Event for the South Island competitors. Thanks to President Graham White, Equestrian Convenor Rachel Walker, Show Secretary Cate Edegler and their Show personnel. While rain on the second day proved challenging, overall everyone was delighted with the result.



Hosted By:

OXFORD A&P ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to President, Ivan Evans, Show Manager Christine Roberts and committee for another superb Royal Event, this time within the dairy goat section. This was the first Royal Event for dairy goats and entry numbers were excellent. Thank you to all concerned.



RAS GOLDEN FLEECE EXHIBITION

Hosted By:



Upper Clutha A&P Association finished their final year of hosting this exhibition as they started – determined and with a steadfast belief in the exhibition. Thank you to convenor Martin Paterson and the committee for all their hard work.

Winners:

Strong Wool – Rachel Humphrey, Feilding

Fine Wool – Blairich Station, Blenheim

Black & Coloured – L.P & K.E Ponsonby, Christchurch

Alpaca – Suri – Rogan & Dynett Colburne, Otaki

Alpaca – Huacaya - Sarah & Peter Bushby, Hastings

Mohair – Dawn & David Sangster, Ranfurly



RAS YOUNG JUDGES & PARADERS COMPETITIONS

Hosted By:



The following young finalists will represent NZ at the Australasian (FCAS) Final in Perth in September/October.

2019 winners:

Dairy Young Judge – Georgia Whitworth

Dairy Parader – Cara Doggett

Beef Young Judge – Georgia Whitworth

Beef Parader – Cara Doggett

Meat Breeds Sheep – Sam Tipping

Merino Fleece – James Fox

Poultry – Courtney Davies



**HARCOURTS - RAS
RURAL
AMBASSADOR
AWARD**



The finals for the 2019 Rural Ambassador were held at the RAS Conference in Wellington and the overall winner Courtney Davies will compete in Perth with the young judges and paraders in September. Courtney will be the Team Manager.

2019 District winners:

Northern – Courtney Davies

Mid Northern –

Western – Samantha Tennent

Eastern – Emma Pollitt

Central – Nicola Lee

Southern – Brooke Flett

Congratulations to all of the finalists.

Thanks to sponsors – Upper Clutha A&P Society, Otago Taieri A&P Society, Helensville A&P Association, Hawkes Bay A&P Society and main sponsor Harcourts.



SOUTH ISLAND DAIRY HEIFER COMPETITION

Unfortunately, due to Mycoplasma Bovis a competition was not held.

NZ NATIONAL EWE HOGGET COMPETITION

The overall winner – Richard and Mez Power (Romney) - was announced at the award dinner.

Congratulations to all those who entered and thanks go to the A&P Associations which support this competition. Congratulations also to NZ Sheepbreeders', administrators of the competition, for a well-run event.

The 2019 competition is well underway and will be reported on at the RAS annual conference and in next year's annual report.

OBITUARIES

Our sympathy is extended to the families of those Society members who have passed on during the 2018-2019 year.

PATRONAGE OF THE SOCIETY

Thanks to, Her Excellency Dame Patsy Reddy for her patronage and support.

Geoff Smith
PRESIDENT

UNITED BREEDS SOCIETY

A & P Shows have been affected by the outbreak of the cattle disease Mycoplasma Bovis. With most shows not having cattle and calf club classes with MPI, Dairy NZ and Beef & Lamb's decision to go for total eradication, it is hoped that this can be achieved, and all Shows will get back to having cattle classes. We all have to take responsibility for keeping full and accurate NAIT records. Today Farming does face many challenges from water quality issues to animal welfare concerns. These issues will not go away, and we have to accept and work with authorities to come up with practical and sensible outcomes.

The media at times seem to give a one-sided impression. The recent farming awards published in the farming newspapers does give a good balance and shows the excellent work being done in these areas. I would like to acknowledge the following Executives on the UBS; Alan Windle – equestrian, Ian Stevenson – sheep, Mark Fleming – beef, Peter Gilbert – dairy. Their knowledge and experience of dealing with their various sections is invaluable for the running of our organisation.

As this is my last year as Chairman, I thank you for your support and I ask that you encourage and help the new chairman. If it wasn't for the breeders, exhibitors and their families who prepare and show livestock for A & P shows, A & P shows would struggle to attract the general public. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Richard Bradly
Chairman

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NZ TREASURER'S REPORT

I wish to provide the following report to members on the financial outcomes for the Society for the period ending 31 March 2019. We have continued to strive for and achieved a modest financial surplus for the Society and ensure another positive return again this year.

As you are all aware, we are required to provide a consolidated set of accounts to meet the Charities Commission financial reporting standards. This sees that our Districts, some who have provided a positive return while others have unfortunately not, are combined with our Head Office financial accounts. The Head Office component of the accounts did provide the Society with a greater positive surplus which has meant that our consolidated set of accounts have received an increased positive outcome compared to last year.

Our strategic partner, Harcourts, has continued to provide us with funding opportunities at National, District and local A&P levels that has assisted in this positive return and we thank them for their support.

I would also like to thank The Southern Trust and Pub Charity for the grants and support throughout the year.

OVERALL INCOME/EXPENDITURE

This year's income has risen by \$27,868 and by maintaining our expenditure at a level only slightly higher than last year we see a consolidated positive return of \$23,365.

Congratulations to both our Head Office and our District Team's for keeping the administration costs of the Society at a slightly lower level than compared to last year while adding additional support through increased training and development for our officials.

MEMBERSHIP

Life membership as of the 31 March 2019 stood at 658 members. There are, 71 Breed and Kindred memberships and 89 A & P Society memberships.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As in the past we continue to credit 5 percent of the life members fund to the current account which will assist in meeting the cost associated with servicing life members.

INVESTMENTS/SHARES

The investment and share portfolio remains steady with a slightly increased value compared to last year.

SUMMARY

We have seen through the process of consolidating efforts on maintaining or reducing costs while increasing revenue has contributed to another positive performance for the Society. However, for the Society to remain financially viable and ensure that we advance over the coming years, we must continue to explore and develop various revenue opportunities.

May I take the opportunity to especially thank our Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Cameron; Administrator, Christine Roberts, and the members of the Executive for their exceptional commitment to our Society, without your on-going support our organisation would not be in a position to continue to grow.

To the Executive, a special thank you also for your continued support of the Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer, we continue to operate in what is sometimes a challenging environment in an effort to ensure the long-term benefit of the Society. To our President Geoff Smith, who has performed an excellent leadership role for the Society over the last 3 years and has assisted a number of members and districts in their development – thank you Geoff for your valuable contribution to our Society and John, for the support you have given Geoff.

Mr. President, I formally move the adoption of the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st of March, 2019.

Brent Snelllex
Treasurer



2019

Financial Statements