



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, 2020

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

will be at the James Cook Hotel, Wellington at 11.20am, Sunday 21 June 2020

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.

Cancelled

THE RAS ANNUAL DINNER

To be held at the James Cook Hotel, Wellington at 7.00pm on Saturday 20 June 2020.



Thanks, goes to sponsors and supporters:

			
			

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)	G.R. Smith	(2016-2019)

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: B.W. Snelllex (Rangiora)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

HONORARY TREASURER:

CEO:

ADMINISTRATOR:

EXECUTIVE: C O'Connor (Te Awamutu), K. Allison (Outram), M Jebson QSM (Darfield), Rachel Walker (Mosgiel), Courtney Davies (Auckland).

VICE PRESIDENT: R Walker (Mosgiel)

G.R. Smith (Pukekohe)

B.W. Snelllex (Rangiora) Acting

D.A. Cameron (Nelson)

C.M. Roberts (Oxford)

UNITED BREEDS SOCIETY 2019 - 2020

CHAIRMAN: B Burgess (Feilding) **EXECUTIVE:** A. Windle (Shannon), M. Fleming (Canterbury), I Stevenson (Cheviot), K Allison (Outram).

HORSE STEWARDS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2019 – 2020

Chairman: H McLeod (Hawera)

RAS Equestrian: C O'Connor (Te Awamutu)

Measuring Convenor: J. Fleet (Pukekohe); **Clean Sport Convenor:** M. Mulligan (Palmerston North); **Judge's Convenor:** A Windle (Shannon)

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 year, my first as President of the RAS, has clearly been a year of two halves (please excuse the sporting cliché), with the majority of our Spring Shows able to operate successfully (albeit with some weather impacts). It was those Autumn Shows towards the end of the season that faced a major impact, the likes of which has never ever been seen during our lifetime, but more on that later in my report.

During the show season I have witnessed the delivery of several quality events. The committee members and management team of the A&P Shows, along with their dynamic volunteer base, have all gone the extra mile to ensure that the rural sector is presented perfectly to those from the urban community (as well as their rural peers from within their District and beyond). Congratulations to all shows who have provided such a great platform of bringing the rural community to town.

During October it was a privilege to attend the NZ Royal A&P Show hosted superbly by the Hawkes Bay A&P Society. I must thank them not only for their superb hospitality but also for their hosting of a great showcase of the movement.

I also enjoyed witnessing the emotion and delight of President Simon Collin along with his family when their 2-year-old heifer Rauriki Naomi took out the prestigious Meat and Wool Cup. This just shows how important showing is for those heavily involved in breeding high quality animals for the New Zealand market.

In January I had the opportunity to visit the Otago Taieri Show for their Royal Event in equestrian. The level of competition was of an excellent standard and the section ran smoothly due to their great team – well done to you all.

Whilst at the show I was given the chance to present the prizes for their Paddock to Plate lamb competition. They had a large number of entries from the local community which they also used as a great opportunity for a social gathering for the local farmers. It was also an opportunity to catch up with a number of farmers who I had previously visited and supported on-farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the ongoing significant contribution that CEO, Debbie Cameron, and Administrator, Christine Roberts make to our organisation. They continue to not only contribute in their daily tasks but also make a significant personal and voluntary contribution to the Society which often goes unseen. We owe you both a huge debt of gratitude for going above and beyond for our organisation – thank you.

Both Debbie and Christine are really well supported by their husbands, Nigel and Wayne, who also assist us in various ways from time-to-time – thank you both for your continued support and assistance.

For several months our National Vice President Rachel Walker was engaged by the National Emergency Management Agency to establish, oversee and bring to closure the National Crisis Management Centre for all of the Government response to COVID-19. This reduced her availability to the RAS for this period. As a result, I took over the financial responsibilities for the Society as I had past experience in this role. Our thanks go out to Rachel and the team for all they are doing to assist New Zealanders during this time of crisis.

I would like to thank the Horse Stewards Council Executive – Alan Windle, Cara O'Connor, Helena McLeod, John Fleet and Maxine Mulligan for their continued dedication to the RAS & the Showing Movement. Their skills, knowledge and expertise provide us with a valuable team when dealing with any equestrian related matters.

I would like to acknowledge our UBS and Breed chairs for their contribution to the Society, Ben Burgess the UBS Chairperson, Mark Fleming the Beef Chairperson, Kelly Allison the Dairy Chairperson and Ian Stevenson the Sheep Chairperson.

To the Executive members, thank you for your contribution to the Society throughout the year. You have all contributed a huge amount of voluntary time to ensure the growth and development of the organisation. At times this personal contribution can be somewhat overlooked by some of the membership.

Today we are facing some of the biggest challenges we have ever seen, not only as an organisation but on a National and Global scale. The coronavirus (COVID 19) has certainly changed the world as we know it and is likely to change the way we operate in the future as well.

For the RAS we have seen several A&P's having to cancel their Autumn Shows with a huge impact on their committee's (particularly after all the hard work undertaken), the volunteers, supporters, competitors and of course the local community. A number of those shows took advantage of the support provided by RAS Head Office where Debbie and Christine assisted them and other A&P's in working their way through the Wage Subsidy offered to assist them financially.

This impact on the showing movement is likely to continue not only into next year but the following years depending on the outcomes that eventuate in eradicating the virus and bringing the country back onto a positive financial footing.

As an organisation it is highly likely that we will need to make some significant changes going forward, those changes will be required to ensure the survival of not just our Society but also the survival of our A&P's and potentially some of our Breed and Kindred Societies.

Whilst change can at times be difficult to accept, we must now put aside any negativity in accepting any change that we are required to undertake to ensure that we, the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand, are still here for the future generations to follow.

In the following pages I am pleased to report on the 2019/20 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 are in their second term of hosting rights and continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of the Show.

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.



Hosted By:

OTAGO TAIERI A&P SOCIETY

Otago Taieri, after a successful Royal Event in 2018-19 show season, chose to run a further Royal Equestrian Event for the South Island competitors for the 2019-20 show season. Once again this proved very successful. Thanks to President Graham White, Equestrian Convenor Rachel Walker, Show Secretary Cate Edegler and their Show personnel.



GOLDEN FLEECE EXHIBITION

This year the exhibition was held in Rangiora with hosting rights undertaken by the Royal Agricultural Society with the assistance of the Oxford A&P Society and the Northern A&P Association. Thank you to all those who assisted.

Winners:

Strong Wool – Rachel Humphrey

Fine Wool – Glenmore

Black & Coloured – L.P & K.E Ponsonby

Alpaca – Suri – Heather & Lars Olssen

Alpaca – Huacaya - Brenda & Ivor Gainsford

Mohair – Tahamoana Angoras



RAS YOUNG JUDGES & PARADERS COMPETITIONS

Hosted By:



The following young finalists will represent NZ at the Australasian (FCAS) Final in Hawkes Bay in October – CANCELLED.

2019 winners:

Dairy Young Judge – Courtney Davies

Dairy Parader – Georgia Whitworth

Beef Young Judge – Courtney Davies

Beef Parader – Cara Doggett

Meat Breeds Sheep – Lisa Bonenkamp

Merino Fleece – Niamh Barnett



RURAL AMBASSADOR AWARD

The finals for the 2020 Rural Ambassador were held at the RAS Conference in New Plymouth and the overall winner Marie Fitzpatrick (Timperley) will compete in Hawkes Bay with the young judges and paraders in October - CANCELLED.

2020 District winners:

Northern – Gabrielle Cashmore

Mid Northern – Terence Potter

Western – Kelsey Vanner

Eastern – Lucy Collin

Central – Marie Fitzpatrick (Timperley)

Southern – Rupert Power

Congratulations to all of the finalists.

Thanks to sponsors – Upper Clutha A&P Society, Otago Taieri A&P Society, and Helensville A&P Association.



SOUTH ISLAND DAIRY HEIFER COMPETITION

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

NZ NATIONAL EWE HOGGET COMPETITION

Breed Section winners were as follows – Fine Wools, Andrew & Lynnore Templeton; Coopworth, Kevin McCallum; Composite, Stuart & Jo Fraser; Crossbred, Raymond & Jane Harre; Perendale, Allan & Leeann Woodrow and Romney, Brian & Anna Coogan.

The overall winner – Brian & Anna Coogan (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 2020 competition has been cancelled due to Covid-19.

OBITUARIES

Our sympathy is extended to the families of those Society members who have passed on during the 2019-2020 year.

PATRONAGE OF THE SOCIETY

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

Brent Snellex
PRESIDENT

UNITED BREEDS SOCIETY

The past year has seen a few changes for me, both personally and the industry. My partner Georgia and I were able to purchase a small block of land in Dannevirke which meant we were able to finally have all our cattle on one property. It also saw us return to competing in the beef showing ring after a couple of years on the side line and judging; we both thoroughly enjoyed being back in the ring and having some younger helpers assist us at the shows we attended.

With M.Bovis still fresh in the cattle committees' minds around the country, we saw the return of some livestock at many shows with appropriate precautions taken. This was great to see and a welcome return for both competitors, shows and spectators.

With flooding in the South and drought in the North it has not been an easy run by any means in the rural sector. Many of our A & P shows are run entirely by volunteers around the country and I thank you for taking time out of your schedules to continue to support them.

Thanks, must also go out to my breed representative chairs; without you working closely with your associated parties, communication would be a lot harder throughout the year.

Beginning 2020 with the Covid-19 outbreak was certainly something that no one could have predicted with all large gatherings cancelled. This has certainly affected a number of A&P shows, horse events, breed AGM's and events etc. however, in light of this some real positives have come to our primary sector and its ability to 'feed the country'. This newfound spotlight I feel, needs to be taken advantage of and is an opportune moment to reshape the face of our industry, connect with the wider community and showcase our innovation, sustainability, and technology.

Good luck for the spring ahead and hopefully we will be able to meet again soon.

Ben Burgess
Chairman

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NZ TREASURER'S REPORT

The following report to members is on the financial outcomes for the Society for the period ending 31 March 2020. The objective for the Society again in this financial year was to return a modest financial surplus to continue our recent annual trends.

We have again been able to achieve surplus on a consolidated basis (as required by the Charities Commission), although this is always difficult to manage when our Head Office team are often removed from the day-to-day workings of the finances at a District level. Clearly it would be much easier to have a centralised financial reporting system, managing both Districts and Head Office accounts, to ensure that we continue to provide a financially sound organisation. It would not only assist us in preparing our end of year financial accounts but provide us with an accurate knowledge of how we are performing on a consolidated basis throughout the year.

We are privileged to continue to receive grant support from The Southern Trust & Pub Charity (along with others) and we thank them for this continued support.

OVERALL INCOME/EXPENDITURE

While this year's income has reduced by \$9,616, an even greater reduction of our expenditure, compared to that of last year, has provided us with a surplus of \$28,348 on a consolidated basis.

I must again congratulate both our Head Office and our District Teams for ensuring that the expenses of the Society are at lower level's when compared to last year, this is clearly an excellent overall result – thank you.

MEMBERSHIP

Life membership as of the 31 March 2020 stood at 665 members. There are, 71 Breed and Kindred memberships and 90 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 remain steady although have a slightly decreased value compared to that of last year.

SUMMARY

This year by reducing expenses, along with a lower revenue, we have been able to provide another surplus for the Society. However, with the impact of Covid-19 it is highly unlikely that our recent trend of annual positive financial returns for the Society will continue next year and as a result, will need to look well outside the square to ensure our long-term financial viability.

Our organisation would not be where it is today without our Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Cameron; Administrator, Christine Roberts, and the members of the Executive who have all worked hard for our organisation. To all of you, thank you for your superb on-going commitment to our Society, without your support we would not be able to function let alone progress.

I would like to thank the Executive for your support of the Chief Executive Officer, as we continue to work towards an improvement in what we provide our membership. This improvement will add to the long-term benefit of the Society particularly as we now move into an extremely challenging environment post Covid-19.

I formally move the adoption of the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st of March, 2020.

Brent Snellex
Treasurer (Acting)