



**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF NEW ZEALAND**

CONFERENCE

27-29 JUNE 2025

Annual General Meetings

29 June 2025

Hotel Elms, Christchurch

Gazette 225 (2025)



RAS - Showcasing Rural Excellence



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hotel Elms, 456 Papanui Road, Christchurch

Friday 27 June 2025

11.30am - 1.30pm	District Equestrian Judges Convenors Meeting
1.30pm – 3.00pm	Horse Stewards Council Executive Meeting
3.00pm – 5.00pm	RAS Management Team Meeting (Districts Representatives and the Executive)

6.00pm – 7.30pm	Pre – Conference Canapes / Cash Bar Showcasing our shows – Presentations from our members Next Generation Ag Conference (Australia) Presentation
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Saturday 28 June 2025

9.00am – 9.15am	Welcome - RAS President Rachel Walker
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9.15am – 9.30am	Royal Show (NI) host presentation
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9.30am – 10.15am	Workshop – Part 1 – led by Peter Nation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation• Outlining Workshop/Groups<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Remaining relevant – a clear purpose</i>- <i>Who are your customers?</i>- <i>Risk and Compliance</i>- <i>The power of data</i>
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10.15am – 10.45am	Morning Tea
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10.45am – 12.30pm	Workshop – Part 2 – led by Peter Nation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Break into Groups• Feedback from Groups• Refresh<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Adaptability</i>- <i>Environmental - Sustainability and community</i>- <i>Education and the next generation</i>
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12.30pm to 1.30pm	Lunch
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1.30pm - 2.00pm Rural Ambassador Speeches



2.00pm – 2.15pm Royal Show (SI) host presentation

hosted by



2.15pm – 3.15pm **Panel Session – Part 1 – led by Peter Nation and Sir David Carter**
Governance – value to shows | Strategy

3.15pm - 3.45pm **Afternoon Tea**

3.45pm – 4.15pm **Panel Session – Part 2**
Royal Shows and Events – the power of
Rules | Remits | Members Only Page/Website

4.15pm The Day's Wrap-up

Evening Programme

Attendees are encouraged to dress to the theme "A Little Bit Country"



6.00pm – 6.30pm Pre-dinner drinks/Cash Bar
6.30pm - 7.15pm Main course served
7.15pm – 7.45pm Rural Ambassador Awards / Presentations
7.45pm Dessert
8.00pm Music and Dancing

SUNDAY 29 JUNE 2025

8.00am **Equestrian Annual General Meetings**
9.15am **United Breeds Annual General Meeting**
Conference feedback, Q and A - take-home messages

10.30am **Morning Tea**

11.00am **RAS Annual General Meeting**

Close of Conference

Immediately following the close of Conference...

RAS Management Team Meeting – District Chairs and Managers
RAS Executive Meeting

INDEX

	Page(s)
1. Executive and Committees	5
2. President's Opening Speech	6-8
3. Equestrian Breeds	
- Minutes	9-11
- Reports	11-14
4. Equestrian (Main)	
- Minutes	15-20
- Reports	20-30
- Equestrian Levies collected	31
5. United Breeds Society (UBS)	
- Minutes	32-38
- Report – Chairperson	38-39
- Reports: Beef Cattle	39-40
- Reports: Dairy Cattle	40-42
- Dairy Ethics Committee – In Milk Dairy Cow Levy collected	43
- Reports: Sheep	43-45
- Reports: Other Breeds	46-47
6. Royal A&P Society NZ (RAS)	
- Minutes	48-53
- Report: President	54-56
- Report: Financial (link)	56
- Reports: Districts Chairpersons	56-61
7. Wrap Up – feedback from delegates	61-62



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE and COMMITTEES 2025.2026



EXECUTIVE

Ben Burgess – President	E: benjburgess@gmail.com
Hamish Grigg – Treasurer	E: h.grigg9@hotmail.com
Sophie Holst – Member	E: sophieholst@outlook.co.nz
Sophie Kirk – Member	E: xavier.sophiekirk@gmail.com
Anne Rogers – Member	E: anne@jazzbears.co.nz

HORSE STEWARDS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE (HSCEX)

Alan Windle – Chairperson	M: 027 415 7512
Maxine Mulligan – National Clean Sport Convenor	M: 027 240 8504
Melissa Jebson - National Judges Convenor	M: 021 236 5548
Rick Croft - National Measuring Convenor	M: 027 492 0345

UNITED BREEDS SOCIETY COUNCIL (UBS)

Ben Burgess – UBS Council Chairperson	E: benjburgess@gmail.com
TBA - Beef Cattle Breeds Chairperson	M:
Kelly Allison - Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson	M: 027 245 8613
Ian Stevenson - Sheep Breeds Chairperson	M: 027 436 1262
Leigh Taylor - Equestrian Breeds Chairperson	M: 027 431 2092

EQUESTRIAN JUDGES

Melissa Jebson - National Convenor	M: 021 236 5548
Melissa Jebson – (Acting) Northern District Convenor	M: 021 236 5548
RAS Head Office – Mid-Northern District Convenor	M: 022 567 7551
Maxine Mulligan – Eastern District Convenor	M: 027 240 8504
Alan Windle – Western District Convenor	M: 027 415 7512
Melissa Jebson – Central District Convenor	M: 021 236 5548
Kristine Russell – Southern District Convenor	M: 027 620 4451



Opening Speech by President, Rachel Walker...

Tēnā koutou katoa

Ko Rachel Walker tōku ingoa

It's wonderful to join you today and it's my great honour to be the opening speaker at the 2025 RAS conference.

Welcome to our member representatives; our honoured guests; our national and district role holders; our Honorary Life Members and Life Members; our judges; our officials and our competitors. I know many of you fit into more than one category and give freely of your time and energy. Thank you to the Executive and to Christine, our wonderful Operations Manager and Jill Timms our fabulous Administrator – you are all amazing. Thank you to those who volunteer and thank you to those who are in paid roles – thank you for choosing to be part of the showing movement in New Zealand.

Thank you also to our wonderful guest speakers. Thank you for helping us to make this conference so special.

Thanks to all of you for caring about showcasing rural excellence.

As you may be aware, tomorrow is my final day as the RAS National President. As you can imagine I have been thinking about how our current environment is compared to how it was at the start of my term. I would like, if I may, for a few minutes to look back over this period as I make my final remarks in this role.

Including tomorrow my term will have spanned 1,351 days since 18 October 2021 when I was co-opted into the National President role by the Executive. Or 3 years, 8 months and 12 days. When I look back it's been a roller coaster ride. We have seen:

- The COVID-19 cancellation years, where some shows went three seasons without an event and in one season, only 10 shows were held at all and under strict social distancing rules. We all have stories of the fear, insecurity and frustration of that time, including concerns about the future stability of our organisations and events.
- An increase in transparency from the Executive and connectivity with members. There was the introduction of annual A&P member calls to see how they were doing and what support the RAS could offer, and more frequent updates from the Executive to members via a monthly newsletter now called the Executive Update. We have also built a stronger social media profile and promoted member posts, strengthened our website platform including a member only section (to protect member only benefits such as advice, lists and information) and sought out promotional opportunities.
- I am confident you have the youngest ever RAS Executive. It was a common theme 4 years ago to hear people comment that we weren't getting young people coming through, but now 5 of the 7 current RAS Executive members have come through the Rural Ambassador programme in the last few years. While I don't want to run the maths or be at all presumptive, it's a fair estimate that those 5 have an average age in the late 20s or early 30s.
- Royal Shows are something you have asked us to achieve, and in 2016 members instructed the Executive to have two Royal A&P shows each year, one in the North Island and one in the South Island. This season will see that ambition achieved for the first time. It will also mean we have had three Royals A&P Shows across three seasons, something not seen for some time. You will hear from the organisers of both these amazing events over the course of this conference. The number of Royal Events has also grown over recent years, with seven Royal Events held last season.
- Our Centenary in 2024 has been a huge success, including leaving us with a lasting legacy document. The Centenary booklet, so ably researched and prepared for you by our own Maria Barta, is available to all members on our website.
- 2023 saw the RAS included in the patronages that HRH The Princess Royal asked to visit when she came to New Zealand. The visit was to mark the centenary of the New Zealand Army's Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals, of which she is Colonel in Chief. When our meeting with her was moved

to Christchurch, we were delighted to invite the Canterbury A&P Association to partner with us. We also hosted her in a visit to Untouched World, which built on the merino display prepared for her at the Canterbury Agricultural Park.

- The Executive has also built on the toolkit of products available to members, including the Volunteer handbook which was a major undertaking.
- We have also set ourselves a three-year strategic plan and annual plans, which have been overwhelmingly achieved (as reported in the annual reports). The incoming Executive I believe intend renewing the Strategic Plan to reflect the current environment, challenges and opportunities to support the A&P showing movement.

Looking back, it amazes me what we have traversed together and how the world moves forward. I think it is critical at times to remind ourselves how far we have come and celebrate that progress, rather than constantly look at how long the road is ahead. Our progress over even the last four years shows we have made huge leaps forward in a relatively short time.

As you know over the last four years the Executive have reached out to our member A&P shows to ask them what is truly happening on the ground. The main trends we have seen across the 24/25 season are as follows:

- Over three times as many report that their trades were up on last year as reported they were the same or down. Some have commented on having wait lists and issues with finding more space for next year. This is off the back of similar comments last year about record trade numbers.
- Home industry or hall sections show a similar trend, with a significant number saying they have gone up. Some innovations coming through here include rebranding home industries to make it more appealing to a modern audience; making classes more relevant to the local area, including theming to target local demographics; and including technology classes and digital displays.
- Twice as many said that their gate takings were up than said they were down on last year. Again, this follows a similar trend last year and was one of the most common pieces of feedback.
- No-one reported dairy being down and more members reported beef up than down. Sheep however were more down than up this year. These are not strong trends, but follow last year's very strong upwards trends in all three sections.
- That equestrian numbers are down was by far the most common comment and a strong trend. Nearly three times as many reported them down as up or the same as last year and again, this was a trend last season too.
- It was also widely commented that sponsorship and grants are harder to come by.

Going through that list segues nicely to talking about the changes we have seen in our operating environment, and I'd like to provide my views on how we can interpret these results.

People want to visit an A&P show, and some sections and in some locations we are seeing a resurgence. This is truly our superpower – when we lose public interest we become irrelevant, and I see this as our single most significant indicator of success. I'm also not sure the general public care about competitions – they just want to see rural life and animals, and we can do that like no other.

Cattle sections have been reintroduced to some shows in recent seasons and are building. It will be interesting to track the trends in cattle and sheep sections over the next few years as the signs are encouraging.

We regularly hear that our equestrian section is hampered by an excess of rules, complexity and cost. Compared to other equestrian sports entry costs for showing is cheap – trying registering for the Olympic disciplines, which notably are seeing significant drops in entry numbers. In my this last opening address, I feel I can comment that my personal view is we need to be realistic about the current age. More people enter the equestrian sections which have less rules and complexity. While there will always be a place for the most traditional of competitions, we need to look at ways to make equestrian showing more accessible. At its most simplistic, that means fewer rules and more classes that are seen as welcoming. I will watch with interest as the Equestrian rulebook and judging processes are reviewed, and encourage those involved to consider taking a minimalistic approach to both to meet what our market is telling us. Controversial I know!

Home industries, which I see as our secret weapon in attracting new people to what we offer, are returning or building across the country. It is a section with massive potential to evolve to meet modern life or regional expertise – with classes that reflect new technology and interests able to be introduced. The world truly is your oyster in this section and members are only limited by their imagination in what they can offer their local community. To say I can envision these sections leading an increase in competitor numbers is an understatement.

We are also seeing more and more examples of creativity in the ways our member A&Ps entertain and engage with their local communities. Recognizing your local community has a large retired community, which is true of so many places, provides the opportunity to target retirement villages. While engaging with local schools has long been seen as a way to introduce new people to the A&P movement, many New Zealanders were not born here and are from other cultures. Often people are looking for ways to be part of their local community but don't know how to go about it. Having a different cultural group being invited to our events or showcased is another way to bring your community together and strengthen A&Ps for the future.

Most recently we have seen the acknowledgement by government of the value of A&Ps to the New Zealand landscape. On 23 May 2025 the Minister of Agriculture the Hon Todd McClay released the following statement under the heading "Backing the future of A&P shows":

"The Government is securing the backbone of rural New Zealand by supporting the volunteers and communities that bring A&P shows to life, Agriculture Minister Todd McClay says. Budget 2025 delivers \$400,000 over four years to support more than 90 A&P shows across the country, providing each with a direct grant of \$1,000 a year to help keep these iconic events running. "A&P shows are a cornerstone of rural life — they help bridge the urban rural divide, celebrate farming success, showcase our world best food and fibre, and are powered almost entirely by local volunteers," Mr McClay says. "This is about backing the people behind the scenes who put in the hours to make these shows happen. Their work keeps communities connected and our rural culture alive. "When rural communities thrive, our whole country benefits. This is a practical investment in regional pride, rural resilience, and the communities that make our most productive sector stronger year after year," Mr McClay says."

Once the Contract has been signed by both parties, the RAS will work with MPI to distribute these grant payments. I'm sure you will hear more on this in the coming months. This acknowledgement is however the first payment from government through the RAS in many, many years and particularly in this tight fiscal environment, a telling indication of the role we play in New Zealand society today.

Our conference this year has a focus on providing you with more information about how you can strengthen your association, society or event. You will workshop agricultural event management with Peter Nation, formal CE of Fieldays, and now runs his own Agbiz Consultancy ,after so many requests after he spoke last year, for an opportunity to do more.. You will have a chance to learn more about governance, so you can consider if the way your organisation is set up and operating is serving it appropriately. You will hear from two Royal A&P Show hosts about their upcoming events and you will see the future of our movement in the form of our Rural Ambassador candidates. You will also network, learn from one another, and have the opportunities to seek answers to your questions.

This is your conference, get everything you need from it and others while we are all together.

As I wrap up I would like to wish you all a great conference and great success into the future – with your events, societies and for the new Executive. I know they will do a great job taking the A&P showing movement even further.

Ngā mihi nui and have a great conference. I look forward to further celebrating with you.

EQUESTRIAN BREEDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



Sunday 29 June 2025 at 8am, Hotel Elms, Christchurch

ATTENDANCE:

Breed Delegates: Leigh Taylor (Chair/Donkey & Mule/Side Saddle/MND Manager), Sarah Carter-Hall (Golden Horse), Zoe Charles (Pinto), Katrina Gosney (Pinto/Standardbred), Jaime Winter (Clydesdale), Bernadette Woffeden (Shetland).

Also, in attendance were:

Executive: Rachel Walker (President/Otago-Taieri), Ben Burgess (Vice-President / UBS Chair), Hamish Grigg (Treasurer), Sophie Holst, Sophie Kirk (Executive/2025 Rural Ambassador).
Christine Roberts (Operations Manager), Jill Timms (Admin/Horowhenua).

Committees: Melissa Jebson (Hon.Life Member/Judges Convenor/Malvern), Helena McLeod (HSCEX Chair), Maxine Mulligan (Hon.Life Member/Rural Ambassador Judge/Clean Sport Convenor),

Members: Lorraine Gardner (Cheviot), Steph Gowing (Whangarei), Elizabeth Graham (SD Rural Ambassador), Merran Hain (Poverty Bay), Rob Hall (SD Chair), Annabelle Hampton (Mackenzie/Riding Pony), Kelly Hanna (Cheviot), Angela Henskes (Pony Breeders), Richard Holst (Franklin), Nicky Hutchinson (Hon.Life Member, Banks Peninsula, Canterbury), Vicki Jagersma (Stratford), John Jebson (CD Chair), Chris Mason (ND Chair), Duncan McArthur (CD Council/Temuka Geraldine), Bruce McRobbie (MND Chair/Morrinsville), Theresa Miller (Pony Breeders), Michelle Radford (Stratford), Rachel Robinson (Northern), Philippa Sanders (CD Councillor/Blk & Col. Sheep), Ruth Stiven (SD Manager/South Otago/West Otago), Sue Thomas (Hawkes Bay).

1	Welcome	Discussion - Action
	Rachel Walker RAS President	Warm welcome extended to meeting attendees.

2	Chair of Meeting	Discussion - Action
	Leigh Taylor – Equestrian Breeds Chair	Welcome by the Chair to the 2025 Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting.

3	Apologies	Discussion - Action
3.1	Andrea Thomson (NZ Donkey and Mule Society) Julie Defilippi (NZ Standardbred). Michelle Mair (Pony Breeders).	Decision: THAT the apologies as listed in 3.1 be received.
		Moved: M Mulligan Seconded: H McLeod-Nevin CARRIED

4	Conflict of Interest	Discussion - Action
		No conflict of interest was declared.

5	Standard follow up items	Discussion - Action
5.1	Confirmation of 9 June 2024 Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting Minutes.	Decision: THAT the Minutes of 9 June 2024 Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.
		Moved: L Taylor Seconded: B Woffeden CARRIED
5.2	Matters arising from Minutes (not on Agenda)	No matters arising.
5.3	General Business added to the	1. Breed Representation at District level.

		head office, you can request that your voting rights be transferred to that District.
	All Breeds Eligibility	If there is no Supreme within a Breed/Kindred section at a RAS affiliated show/event then that section is not eligible to enter any animal for the All Breeds Supreme.

9	Election of Chairperson	Discussion - Action
9.1	Equestrian Breeds Chairperson.	Mrs Leigh Taylor – 3-year term remains.

13	Close	Discussion - Action
		Meeting declared closed at 8.11 am.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Equestrian Breeds Chairperson – Leigh Taylor

It is with pleasure that I present my report for the 2024/25 season.

We have nineteen Breed or Kindred Societies affiliated to RAS for whom I have hosted two online meetings in the 2024/25 season.

One scenario that came to the fore this season was non-affiliated societies running sections at A&P Shows. I can see both sides of this story as from a show perspective any offer of assistance and entries in the gate is appreciated. However, from a Breed or Affiliate's perspective it is frustrating. It makes us wonder why we bother affiliating. Affiliation does give us the right to show at Royal Shows and Events so please bear that in mind.

It is extremely positive that Royal Shows and Royal Events in Equestrian sections are making a comeback. To have Royal status in the equestrian section means offering ALL affiliated Breeds and Kindreds a section. Please support the shows who are flying the flag for RAS holding Royal Shows and Events and make these events the pinnacle events for showing. For show convenors do take up offers from Breeds and Kindreds to check memberships and registrations for your shows. Te Kauwhata A&P Association held a very successful Royal Event in their Equestrian section in December 2024, and I can confirm (as President and Equestrian Convenor) that many of the sections that were included to be a Royal Event in 2024, will be kept for their 2025 show.

It is AGM season so if there are any changes to your personnel or schedules please make sure that they are sent through to Head Office for the website to be updated. Member shows are reminded that Breeds and Kindreds must approve their individual schedules, please email your schedules through to the email listed on the RAS website. RAS Head Office only approves the Showing classes.

Wishing everyone a successful 2025/26 showing season.

6.2 Affiliated Breed Societies

6.2.1 Clydesdale Horse Society – No report received.

6.2.2 Connemara Pony Society of NZ – No report received.

6.2.3 Donkey and Mule Society of NZ – Andrea Thomson

The numbers of donkeys being shown this past season has held steady, and the numbers of mules being shown has increased slightly. Auckland is developing relationships with new A & P societies. However, Eastern and Western have not held classes due to insufficient numbers to enable a donkey and mule section to be run, although the society ran its own show at Feilding with a good turnout. The Gore, Winton and Waiau shows did not hold a donkey and mule section either due to insufficient numbers. However, the Southland A & P show held classes as donkeys and mules came from Milton to

ensure the show ran. The standard of donkeys and mules, their presentation and training has been up to the usual high standard.

The society's own North Island show in Auckland and South Island Show at Rangiora were the largest shows with very high numbers of entries.

In the North Island American Miniature Mediterranean Donkeys dominate the shows. This breed is of a high standard in New Zealand as top quality stock was imported into New Zealand. It is also the breed that is growing in numbers.

There are few American Mammoths left in New Zealand since the main stud in the Waikato was disbanded three years ago. Most of the donkeys were sold to Australia. There is now just one stud in Milton. There are four other jacks in the country, but they are breeding mules. The numbers of English/Irish studs have declined to the point where there are only four studs in the South Island. The breed is in danger of running out of outcrosses as AI is difficult with donkeys and the cost of importing new stock from England expensive. Australia is also running out of new bloodlines and has the same bloodlines as New Zealand.

The society is in good heart and the Auckland area in particular has activities such as beach walks for the donkeys and members.

6.2.4 Irish Draught Horse Society of NZ – Helena McLeod Nevin (President)

The season has come and gone so fast, with another great council working together for the better of the society.

Our members have all been kept updated with the facebook page as this is our quickest means of communication and works well for other breed societies.

I managed to get back to the NZ HOY this season, after a 10 year gap, on my homebred ½ Irish ½ TB mare by Northwood Jetstream out of my Kingsway Daimond mare, and I have to say, you cannot beat the breed for temperament, trainability and all-round awesomeness, when you are a middle aged lady doing it by yourself on these big missions across the country to compete in a big atmosphere show, you need to feel confident you are going to have a good, safe ride so you can get yourself home, and my mare delivered!

Just out of the placings in a big field, we made top 10 in both our Led Class and the Rising Star saddle Hunter Class. Lot's to work on, but as they say "if you're riding into the ring on a horse you love, you've already won". Our Registrar and Saddle Hunter title winner of the year Tracy Crossan gave the three of us competing at HOY a gorgeous Shamrock pin, I wore mine very proudly.

The Society is still proudly RAS affiliated, and we enjoy our annual remit process and voting meeting.

6.2.5 Morgan Horse Association of NZ - No report received.

6.2.6 National Miniature Horse Society of NZ – Chris Carston (President).

We wish to again thank RAS for allowing us to be an affiliated body – one of two miniature horse organisations affiliated to the RAS – the other being the NZMHA.

However sadly we have some concerns that we would like the RAS to address (all with the aim of RAS treating both miniature horse organisations fairly and equally):-

1) A few years back we submitted a schedule of behalf of NMHSNZ that we wished the A&P societies to have the choice to use – either the NZMHA one or the NMHSNZ one. With the introduction of miniature Modern American Shetlands into NZ, this new revised schedule, giving the Modern American Shetlands their own classes, has proved a very popular and fairer way of showing miniature horses throughout NZ (showing apples against apples). We received back receipt that this had been accepted. However our schedule has never been put up on the RAS website as an approved miniature horse schedule to choose to use. Could you please amend this so A&P Societies can easily find this.

2) It is of grave concern to us that for the Stratford A&P Royal show, our written NMHSNZ proposal to fully help (very excited to) with the miniature horse section has been verbally rejected after the RAS advised the A&P to use the NZMHA schedule and not the NMHSNZ one. We offered to provide help, equipment, stewards, encouragement to competitors to attend – and using our NMHSNZ schedule.

We also offered to hold our own North Island show the same weekend locally, and asked that the miniature horse classes at the Royal be held on the Friday with the other breed classes, so with the double whammy of shows in the area we could attract as many miniature horse competitors as possible to travel to the RAS Royal. As both NMHSNZ and NZMHA are jointly affiliated, we feel aggrieved that

this has happened. And worse, Stratford A&P are likely now holding the classes on the weekend, not the Friday, in direct competition to our show that in goodwill we organised after our promise to HELP the Stratford A&P gain entries for their Royal show.

3) It is also of grave concern to us that letters are – or will be - circulating to A&P shows (plus NZMHA members encouraged to circulate such to A&P shows in writing) by our opposition, the New Zealand Miniature Horse Association. The letters asking that horses competing at RAS/A&P shows must have either a RAS or NZMHA height certificate to compete at A&P shows – and asking that their NZMHA miniature horse schedule be accepted (making no mention of NMHSNZ's show schedule or also allowing NMSHNZ height certificates). If this suggestion is taken up by A&P shows, then it against an affiliated club's acceptance of the RAS rules, it undermines the RAS's own height certificate, loses the RAS a lot of revenue in measuring, and undermines our own affiliation to RAS. We kindly ask that you treat NMHSNZ and NZMHA fairly and equally, and instruct all A&P shows to accept RAS height certificates only, to not accept NZMHA height certificates (or in the unlikely event you do accept their height certs, to accept ones from both NZMHA and NMHSNZ), and advise the A&Ps that there are two miniature horse show schedules to choose from.

NMHSNZ continues to be a very strong supporter of the RAS. We happily accept RAS height certificates (NZMHA do not) at all our shows – which in turn gives you more measuring income. Our members help with running miniature horse sections – and supplying equipment e.g. jumps, obstacle courses etc, at A&P shows wherever possible. We also incorporate points gained from miniature horse classes at A&P shows in ALL our major hipoints awards, making it very valuable to attend A&P shows. A number of our members and supporters also volunteer at RAS measuring stands around the country. We also do promotions/demos.

6.2.7 NZ Arabian Horse Society – No report received.

6.2.8 NZ Golden Horse Society – No report received.

6.2.9 NZ Gypsy Cob Association - No report received.

6.2.10 NZ Miniature Horse Society - No report received.

6.2.11 NZ Pinto Horse Society – Julie Pascoe (Secretary)

The NZ Pinto Horse Society has gone from strength to strength every year, with a steady number of members joining every year and horses being registered.

I would like to extend thanks to all the shows that include Pinto's in their schedule. We are grateful for this and hope our ongoing sponsorship goes some way into helping you provide these classes. We have a good spread of shows that include Pinto's throughout New Zealand. However, if any other A&P shows who would like to add a Pinto section, we are happy to offer sponsorship towards this.

Land Rover Horse of the Year ran a Pinto section which was well received by competitors. The day went well with plenty of beautiful in-hand and ridden Pinto horses on display.

We also ran our own stand-alone Pinto Show one in the North Island and one in the South Island which had good support from our members.

6.2.12 NZ Shetland Pony Breeders – Bernadette Woffenden (President)

Currently the NZ Shetland Pony Breeders Society has fifty-seven financial members. Our role is to protect, preserve and represent the NZSPBS and to promote the Shetland Pony Breed here in New Zealand. Currently there are 1240 Shetland ponies in the Stud book with this number rising as foals are weaned and registered for the 2024-2025 breeding season. On average 17 to 20 foals are added to the register each year. The majority of Shetland Pony Studs and ponies are based in the South Island but we are keen to grow the number of Shetland enthusiasts in the North Island.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Royal A and P Society for their support and guidance when we have sought advice and clarification. We would especially like to acknowledge Melissa Jebson and Christine Roberts for their swift professional response and support.

We would like to remind all shows that hold Shetland Pony sections, that we are happy to check that all entries are indeed registered with our society and eligible to compete. We will happily sponsor Champion and Reserve ribbons for any show if they contact us and run their Section under the NZSPBS guidelines and RAS rules.

At the start of every showing season we share the Shetland section NZSPBS guidelines and a breed standard for judges to refer to. Our NZ Shetland Pony Breeders Society Website has information and contacts should you require further support, <https://www.shetlandpony.org.nz/>. We are actively encouraging members to support their local A&P shows and if they aren't competing ponies to either steward or volunteer in some capacity.

6.2.13 NZ Standardbred Breeders Association – Julie DeFilippi (Delegate)

It's a short and sweet report this year from NZSBA with us extending our thanks to all the shows that have chosen to run a Standardbred section this past season. It is very much appreciated that those shows continue to support the breed even though we are aware sometimes numbers can be low in these economic times.

NZSBA has provided sponsorship to 28 shows around the country, and we hope this goes somewhere in helping towards the running of the section for those Standardbred competitors out there.

I would just like to remind Show Secretaries and or Horse Convenors – if you are intending to run a HOYQ section, please remember to send me your Standardbred section for approval PRIOR to your schedule going live.

Once again, I would like to thank NZSBA for making the sponsorship available.

6.2.14 Welsh Pony and Cob Society – Zandra Cook (Secretary)

The Welsh Pony & Cob Society of New Zealand (Inc) has just celebrated its 60th AGM. This Society is a daughter Society of Welsh Pony & Cob Society Wales. All registered Welsh both purebred and part-bred in NZ can be traced back to Wales. Registered Welsh both purebred and part-bred here and overseas have a long history of breed standards Maintaining the Welsh Breed Standard is a very important part of all Welsh Societies. We feel that it would be right and appropriate that the RAS consider the long history of the Welsh Breed and the Breed Standard and allow the Welsh Breed Standard in full to be accepted by all RAS A&P Shows in the registered Welsh in-hand and ridden classes. Shows in Australia, the UK, and around the world recognise and respect the Welsh Breed Standard and we ask that RAS do the same.

EQUESTRIAN (MAIN) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



Sunday 29 June 2025 at 8.12am, Hotel Elms, Christchurch

ATTENDANCE:

Executive: Rachel Walker (President/Otago-Taieri), Ben Burgess (Vice-President / UBS Chair), Hamish Grigg (Treasurer), Sophie Holst, Sophie Kirk (Executive/2025 Rural Ambassador).

Christine Roberts (Operations Manager), Jill Timms (Admin/Horowhenua).

Committees: Melissa Jebson (Hon.Life Member/Judges Convenor/Malvern), Helena McLeod (HSCEX Chair), Maxine Mulligan (Hon.Life Member/Rural Ambassador Judge/Clean Sport Convenor),

Members: Sarah Carter-Hall (Golden Horse), Zoe Charles (Pinto), Lorraine Gardner (Cheviot), Katrina Gosney (Pinto), Steph Gowing (Whangarei), Elizabeth Graham (SD Rural Ambassador), Merran Hain (Poverty Bay), Rob Hall (SD Chair), Annabelle Hampton (Mackenzie/Riding Pony), Kelly Hanna (Cheviot), Angela Henskes (Pony Breeders), Richard Holst (Franklin), Nicky Hutchinson (Hon.Life Member, Banks Peninsula, Canterbury), Vicki Jagersma (Stratford), John Jebson (CD Chair), Chris Mason (ND Chair), Duncan McArthur (CD Council/Temuka Geraldine), Bruce McRobbie (MND Chair/Morrinsville), Theresa Miller (Pony Breeders), Michelle Radford (Stratford), Rachel Robinson (Northern), Philippa Sanders (CD Councillor/Blk & Col. Sheep), Ruth Stiven (SD Manager/South Otago/West Otago), Leigh Taylor (Chair/Side Saddle/Donkey & Mule/MND Manager), Sue Thomas (Hawkes Bay), Bernadette Woffeden (Shetland Pony).
Jaime Winter (Clydesdale).

1	Welcome	Discussion - Action
		Welcome extended in the previous Breeds Meeting.

2	Chair of Meeting	Discussion - Action
	Helena McLeod-Nevin – Equestrian Horse Council Executive Chair	Welcome from the Chair, who opened the 2025 Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting at 8.12am.

3	Apologies	Discussion - Action
3.1	Julie Defilippi (Standardbred); Michelle Mair (Pony Breeders), Kristine Russell (SD Judges Convenor), Andrea Thomson (Donkey & Mule), Alan Windle (WD Judges Convenor).	Decision: THAT the apologies as noted in 3.1 be received.
		Moved: H McLeod-Nevin CARRIED

4	Conflict of Interest	Discussion - Action
		No conflict of interest declared.

5	Standard follow up items	Discussion - Action
5.1	Confirmation of 9 June 2024 Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting Minutes	Decision: THAT the Minutes of 9 June 2024 Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.
		Moved: N Hutchinson Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED
5.2	Matters arising from Minutes (not on Agenda)	No matters arising.
5.3	General Business added to the Agenda	1. Engagements with districts throughout the year.

6	Reports	Discussion - Action
6.1	Horse Stewards Council Chair	Circulated and Tabled – see page 20. Decision: THAT the Horse Stewards Council Chairperson's 2024.2025 Annual Report be received.
		Moved: H McLeod-Nevin Seconded: S Gowing CARRIED
6.2	Affiliated Equestrian Societies 6.2.1 NZ Carriage Driving Society 6.2.2 NZ Equestrian Pleasure Soc. 6.2.3 NZ Riding Pony Society 6.2.4 NZ Side Saddle Association 6.2.5 Pony Breeders Society of NZ	Affiliated Societies delegates were all asked for a written report - see page 20-22 Decision: THAT the affiliated Equestrian Societies tabled reports be received.
		Moved: M Mulligan Seconded: N Hutchinson CARRIED
6.3	Districts Horse Stewards Chairperson's Reports 6.3.1 Northern – <i>No separate Chair</i> 6.3.2 Mid Northern 6.3.3 Eastern – <i>No separate Chair</i> 6.3.4 Western – <i>No separate Chair</i> 6.3.5 Central 6.2.6 Southern	See pages 22-23. Decision: THAT the Mid-Northern, Central, and Southern Districts Horse Stewards Chairperson's Annual Reports as tabled be received.
		Moved: H McLeod-Nevin CARRIED
6.4	Clean Sport - National Clean Sport Convenor	See pages 23-24. Decision: THAT the National Clean Sport Convenor's report as tabled, be received.
		Moved: M Mulligan Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED
6.5	Equine Health	See page 24. Decision: THAT the Equine Health Representative's Annual report as tabled be received.
		Moved: H McLeod-Nevin CARRIED
6.6	Horse of the Year Show 2025	See page 24. Decision: THAT the Horse of the Year 2025 report as tabled be received.
		Moved: H McLeod-Nevin CARRIED
6.7	Judges 6.7.1 National Judges Convenor	See page 25. Decision: THAT the National Judges Convenor's Annual report as tabled be received.
		Moved: M Jebson Seconded: L Taylor CARRIED
	6.7.2 District Judge Convenors	See pages 25-29.

	6.7.2.a Northern 6.7.2.b Mid-Northern 6.7.2.c Eastern 6.7.2.d Western 6.7.2.e Central 6.7.2.f Southern	Decision: THAT the Districts Judge Convenor's Annual reports as tabled be received.
		Moved: M Jebson Seconded: L Taylor CARRIED
6.8	Measuring - National Measuring Convenor	See pages 29-30. Decision: THAT the National Measuring Convenor's Annual report as tabled be received.
		Moved: R Walker Seconded: B Burgess CARRIED
6.9	Youth Equestrian Team	No Tri-Nation's Equestrian Youth Team Event took place in 2024.2025.

7	Personnel	Discussion - Action
7.1	Clean Sport	
	7.1.1 Stewards	RAS Executive review's any recommendations on a case-by-case basis.
7.2	Judges	Names of New/Upgraded Judges, and new Tutor Graded Judges tabled, as follows...
	7.2.1 Northern	Grade 3: Mel Yeo.
	7.2.2 Mid-Northern	Grade 2 – 1: Dana Adams, Neil McKenzie Hall Working Hunter/Hunter Jumping: Leigh Taylor.
	7.2.3 Eastern	No names tabled.
	7.2.4 Western	No names tabled.
	7.2.5 Central	Tutor Judge: Maree Milliken Grade 2 – 1: Danielle Stevens Grade 3: Courtney Mullan, Louise Wing Working Hunter/Hunter Jumping: Jan Colenso
	7.2.6 Southern	Grade 2 – 1: Tracey Crossan Grade 3 – 2: Louise Allan Working Hunter: Tui Willson
		Decision: THAT the above names and their Grades as noted be acknowledged and ratified.
		Moved: H McLeod-Nevin Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED
7.3	Measuring	
	7.3.1 Measuring Inspectors	RAS Executive will review the District's nominations, and anything resulting from conference, at their next meeting.

	7.3.2 Measuring Stewards	RAS Executive will review the District's nominations, and anything resulting from conference, at their next meeting.

8	Fees and Levies	Discussion - Action
8.1	Equestrian Levies	Equestrian Levies collected for 2024.2025 Show season tabled – see page 31. Those Shows yet to pay their levies have been followed up again. Some payments have been received since the Agenda was circulated, as noted in this Gazette.

9	Correspondence	Discussion - Action
9.1		None tabled.

10	General Business	Discussion - Action
10.1	Remits Results – #1 to #18	Results of Equestrian Remits were announced - all voting forms were counted by a Justice of the Peace.
1.	CDE: Colour of Horse/Pony on Cert.	29 FOR / 36 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - FAILED
2.	CDE: Consistency of Rules – Measuring of foals	57 FOR / 8 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
3.	CDE: Judging Percentages	14 FOR / 52 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
4.	CDE: Overseas Rider Performances	55 FOR / 10 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
5.	Clean Sport – PR banned from Shows	51 FOR / 14 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
6.	EEFSL: Compulsory Horse/Pony Registration	6 FOR / 59 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - FAILED
7.	EEFSL: Compulsory Membership	6 FOR / 59 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - FAILED
8.	EEFSL: + J + ER: Judges Adjudicating Breed sections	36 FOR / 29 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
9.	General: Rider Fall – New rule	55 FOR / 11 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
10.	Measuring – Current Measure on Database	5 FOR / 61 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
11.	Measuring: Life Measures	22 FOR / 44 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
12.	Measuring: Stands Calibration	32 FOR / 33 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - FAILED Note: AI Overview - "In New Zealand, measuring stands should generally be calibrated annually, especially if used for critical measurements or part of a quality assurance program." AIMS Industrial Services - "As a minimum, Go Calibration recommends calibrating your instruments at least once a year to ensure accuracy and provide quantitative data to ensure you can

		<i>provide quality assurance for your customers.”</i>
13.	Measuring: Youngstock Measures over 148cm	54 FOR / 12 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
14.	Measuring: Youngstock Measuring, Stand Days	19 FOR / 47 AGAINST / 0 AGAINST - FAILED
15.	MSS: First Ridden Championship	18 FOR / 48 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
16.	MSS: Horse Divisions, Determined as over 148cm.	15 FOR / 51 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
17.	MSS: Rising Star to Replace Novice	5 FOR / 59 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - FAILED
18.	MSS+ Lead Rein Age Increased, First Ridden Section deleted	19 FOR / 45 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - FAILED
		Melissa Jebson – there may be repercussion regarding Remit #8 being voted in favour of: Bringing the time down from 6mths to 6 weeks for judges adjudicating on sections. This would have been fine if it was pertaining to Breed Sections only, but it affects all the RAS showing sections. Please contact your District Judge Convenors if there are any concerns.
10.2	Engagement	More engagement is asked for between equestrian role holders. Action: Incoming Executive to look at more communication between Horse Stewards Council Executive and District Equestrian Chairs or a District Representative.

11	Election of Officers	Discussion - Action
		Action: All nominations will go through to the Annual General Meeting.
11.1	Chairperson	Ms Helena McLeod-Nevin – current term ends Two nominations received. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Helena McLeod Nevin Nominator One: Irish Draught Horse Society (Tania Kelland-Secretary) Nominator Two: Egmont A&P Assn (Dale Moseley-President) Mr Alan Windle Nominator One: Wyndham A&P Assn (Mike Henderson – Pres.) Nominator Two: Southland A&P Assn (Paula Bell-President) Voting closed on 15 June 2025 and results were as follows... Ms Helena McLeod Nevin – 12 votes Mr Alan Windle – 36 votes Mr Alan Windle, elected Chairperson to be ratified in the Annual General meeting.

11.2	National Clean Sport Convenor	Mrs Maxine Mulligan – current term ends One Nomination Received - Mrs Maxine Mulligan Nominator One: LEEANNE MORRISON (NZ Equestrian Pleasure Soc) Nominator Two: Julie DeFilippi (NZ Standardbred Breeders Assn) Mrs Mulligan's nomination will go through to the Annual General Meeting for ratification.
11.3	National Judges Convenor	Mrs Melissa Jebson – current term ends One Nomination Received - Mrs Melissa Jebson Nominator One: Alistair Barnhill (Malvern A&P Assn) Nominator Two: Brent Chamberlain (Canterbury A&P Assn) Mrs Jebson's nomination will go through to the Annual General Meeting for ratification.
11.4	National Measuring Convenor	Mr Rick Croft – term remains current.

12	Close	Discussion - Action
		The Chair thanked all for attending.
		A vote of thanks was accorded to Ms Helena McLeod-Nevin for her time and support given in her role of Chairperson and wished her all the best for the future.
		Meeting declared closed at 8.28am.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Horse Stewards Chairperson's Report – Helena McLeod Nevin

This year the Chair and two Convenors terms come to an end and only one of the positions has more than one person interested in stepping onto the Horse Stewards Council Executive.

It did make me wonder if we don't have enough awareness of who the Horse Stewards Council Executive is,. It would be a wonderful achievement to have an abundance of talent and interested people in wanting to join this important group within the RAS.

The Council are always looking at ways to encourage more competitors at our shows and currently have something in the pipeline. If fruition, then we will be sharing it with our members soon.

The council generally makes decisions on official complaints, any rule breaks, discusses hot topics and looks for better ways to improve equestrian aspects of the showing movement.

Looking forward to seeing some of you at Conference.

6.2 Affiliated Equestrian Societies

6.2.1 NZ Carriage Driving Society – no report received.

6.2.2 NZ Equestrian Pleasure Society – LEEANNE MORRISON (President)

Once again, we had a successful season membership remaining strong and shows holding the section have increased.

We held 2 championships hosted by Ellesmere A&P in the South Island and National Horse and Pony show in the north. The society remains committed to ensuring our members get value for their membership and our highpoints, best registered class and championship shows are one way to do this.

HOY came with a number of challenges for us this year with the time constraints put on us by the change in the cross country among other issues it has left us questioning the value of the event.

It was nice to have a season with less disruption from extreme weather etc.

6.2.3 NZ Riding Pony Society – Christine Rowe (President)

The New Zealand Riding Pony Society ran a very successful NZRPS Show this year held at Kirwee. This followed the cancellation of last years show due to a lack of entries.

This year's show had increased entries with two new sections being introduced. Working Hunter horses and ponies and a section called 'Coached Combination'. An introduction to showing. The 'coach'(judge) in this section will coach all competitors on how to compete in each class giving feedback during the coaching. This section was well received with some more suggestions on other class possibilities.

The NZRPS is providing a Halter Sash and place ribbons 2nd to 6th to the two NZ Royal Shows Canterbury A&P, Stratford A&P, and a Halter Sash and pace ribbons 2nd to 6th to the Poverty Bay A&P Royal Event for our Ridden classes. We are also offering these three Shows a Winners Rosette and place sashes 2nd to 6th for a NZRPS class for the Lead Rein and First Ridden sections.

From next season all A&P Shows that hold our Ridden Pony classes will receive a winners rosette and ribbons 2nd to fourth.

6.2.4 NZ Side Saddle – Leigh Taylor (President)

It is with pleasure that I present my report for the 2024/25 season.

Tracey Nolan has decided not to make herself available for re-election as Treasurer after fifteen years in the role. Thank you, Tracey, for your commitment to the association for such a long term. You will be missed.

Te Kauwhata A&P Association hosted a Royal Event Equestrian section in December 2024. Seven riders were entered and our South Island judge Jennifer Hislop put forward Shirley Collie and Ultra Velvet as her champion with Libby Plummer and LWT Tillandsia as Reserve.

New Zealand National Horse and Pony are keen to offer us a title class at their show in January 2026. The show is held in Dannevirke at the lovely Dannevirke A&P Showgrounds. Judi in her own right sponsored the section in 2024 and Judi and I went halves for 2025. Judi has indicated that she is willing to do the same again in 2026.

Horse of the Year saw new rider Hanna Luostari and Oldbrooke Debut take out the garland and sash after taking a clean sweep of all the sections of the Title. Such a beautiful combination and justification of our support of the 2024 remit to RAS to allow adults on ponies if the rules of the Breed or Kindred Society allow. Jenny Pearce and True Steel have decided that they are professional bridesmaids after taking out Reserve for something like the eleventh time.

Stratford A&P are holding a full Royal Show at the end of November 2025. It would be great to see as many riders as possible there and I hope that as an Association we can support them by providing a steward and potentially sponsorship.

Canterbury A&P is holding a full Royal Show 13, 14 and 15 November. Hopefully our South Island members will be able to support.

Poverty Bay A&P (Gisborne) is holding a Royal Event Equestrian section in October. Their equestrian convenor has been in touch as they have to offer classes. I am not sure if we would get many to go but if you can please support.

Of our riding members we had 13 juniors, 20 seniors, 2 master's and 1 overseas. We have had a record number of points cards put in this year. Congratulations to everyone who has put in a card. It isn't just shows that you can collect points at. Personally, I have been riding aside at Working Equitation. Would help if I didn't miss out obstacles in competition though.

Equifest in October saw three riders enjoying three days of demonstrations. Thanks to Keisha, Debbie, Danny, Libby, Lockie and Jenny for all of your help over the three days.

NI Champ show ran for the first time in six years. Only four riders but a lovely atmosphere and you know if you don't draw a line in the sand it may never happen. Lovely grounds at Ohinewai Domain.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharyn for all the work that she has done on reviewing our constitution so that we comply with the new legislation. I would however like us to seriously consider adopting an electronic means of meeting for our AGM. It is continuing to be a struggle to have enough people come to the AGM. I am sure it is not because people are not interested, it is simply cost prohibitive. Covid proved to us that technology allows for productive meetings to be held online and whilst it is good to catch up in person we must move with the times and do what is best for our organisation.

6.2.5 Pony Breeders Society of NZ – Michelle Mair (Secretary)

Our membership is about the same with a few new members joining this year along with registrations and new stud prefixes also. This is very pleasing to see. Most of our newsletters have gone out via emails to keep most of our members up to date with information along with the use of Facebook. In May we held our Foal show for the first time for a couple of years. Thanks to the Great Lakes All Welsh Club for letting us work in a long side with your Youngstock show on the same weekend and venue. This gave exhibitors opportunity to support two shows with only travelling to one venue. It was awesome working in with another group of breeders.

We would like to congratulate the winners of our lovely sashes. Thank you to the A&P shows for supporting our sash classes and the volunteers who make the shows happen and work behind the scenes organising.

We wish you all the best for the coming season.

6.3 Districts Equestrian Chairperson Reports

6.3.2 Mid Northern – Louellen Davies

Our show season is well and truly over, however the never-ending enthusiasm of our competitors is wonderful to see.

The atmosphere at shows has been well felt by all who attended and whether its horses or having a ride on the donkeys or going on the merry go round, it was good.

Throughout the mid northern district there were several happenings of note.

First and foremost, Te Kauwhata held a great Royal Event show in the December, and the numbers were great, well-done Leigh.

Katikati had their 100th show, a great show which was well attended, everyone had a great day, there was a great vibe and I could still fit into my riding jacket.

Waihi held their first riding horse section which was well patronized with popular feedback.

Waihi, what can you say about a lady who has given 50 years as secretary to the local show, not counting all the years of support previously given.

Marilyn's committee presented her with the centennial medal in appreciation of her years of dedicated support. The RAS honoured Marilyn in presenting her with the RAS medal of excellence. Bruce McRobbie and Louellen Davies spoke on behalf of the Mid Northern District Council, an honour to be asked to speak at such a momentous occasion.

An event which will probably never happen again within the Mid northern district.

Matamata held a show which was well patronized, and it was fine, such a relief, also next year there will possibly be a change of venue for Matamata as yet to be decided.

Te Puke, the jumpers' mecca had a great show, and the classes were well patronized, their other non-qualifying fun classes were enjoyed very much as well.

Morrinsville's gate was up from previous years, and they had a great show, a variety of things for everyone, and a huge cattle section.

The implementation of the new NZTR thoroughbred class was well received although attendance varied across the board. NZTR are certainly very involved in the thoroughbred's journey from the track to becoming show hacks, sport horses, eventers etc we need to support these classes.

Throughout the district there were some sections that were a bit scratchie entry wise however each season is different, and the shows keep holding these classes, which quite often are up the next season.

It is obvious that, where competitors brought several horses, they now only bring one and are probably tossing up on the Thursday before whether they should go to the ribbon day down the road. So much has changed and there is so much choice.

We have had a number of judges upgrading last season and also have others interested in coming onto the judges list, which is great news and thanks must be given to our judge's convener Amanda Parkes for her support and encouragement.

Volunteers are at a premium and we need more youngsters coming on committees, this is not only our discipline but is the cry for all sports across the board. Spread the word.

If you know someone who is showing interest in offering some of their time on a committee, volunteering or just generally being a support person, our shows need them. Running a show is not for the faint hearted, the public only sees this seamless day laid out before them and all they have to do is

turn up. Even if they only hand out show posters downtown, top up the water cups, fold the ribbons, find a chair for someone, no matter how small their contribution, they are an integral part of that show. Come join us, we would love to have you.

With the closing of the season so is the closing of Jim Keyte's term at Mid Northern District council, a man of knowledge, principle and support. Jim, you have contributed so much throughout the years, always a steady hand and knowledgeable influence. It's very hard really to say much more only that you will be irreplaceable. We all at Mid Northern will miss you greatly, and wish you a well-earned retirement.

6.3.5 Central – Hamish Grigg

This year has marked a return to a more normal and consistent showing season than we have had over the last few seasons. Shows are consistently experiencing strong visitor numbers, along with good trade and sponsorship.

Overall, the horse competitors are still down over all shows compared to our numbers prior to Covid. The only class to buck this trend is the Hunter classes which over most shows seems to be showing a good growth in numbers. With this turn we can be hopeful that other areas within the Equestrian Section may get the same growth but, in the end, this will be dictated by competitors' financial pressures and interest.

I have been impressed with how shows Equestrian Sections have been thinking outside the box to try and stimulate growth. The inter-show points competition and getting pony clubs more involved in show days to introduce young competitors to an A&P Show environments. Anything that is done will not be an overnight fix, but hopefully we will see a change over the next few years.

It has been great seeing so many successfully run events in the district and special mention to the equestrian Royal Event run at Oxford A&P. Every year all shows highlight the incredible work that is done by Committees, Administrators, Volunteers and Judges do to create brilliant events that our competitors and visitors love. We are incredibly lucky to have a strong and welcoming community which has been able to bring new people in and who give so much time and energy all year round. Thank you for all your hard work and passion for the Equestrian Section and A&P Shows.

6.3.6 Southern – Ian Tippett

This past season has continued to show a decline in equestrian entries at most shows in the district. It is disappointing when exhibitors go to all the effort to present their horses or ponies to such a high standard, then find they are the only entry. Our shows go to a lot of effort and cost to put these events on. It is disappointing when they are not supported.

Our tutor judges group do a great job with the training of new judges and helping shows to get judges, but they are running into difficulties with getting new judges experience as the rules are set at the moment. We are just one part of what is an A&P show, and we need to be aware that we don't regulate ourselves out of A&P shows. Our larger shows are coping reasonably well, but some of our smaller shows are struggling.

Thank you to all the people that work tirelessly to keep our section of the show going. If we keep our focus on the main target (A&P shows) and all work together we will still be here well into the future.

6.4 Clean Sport

6.4.1 National Clean Sport Convenor – Maxine Mulligan

I am pleased to report that a total of 12 Clean Sport Forbidden Substance Tests have been completed this season – 4 in the South Island, and 8 in the North Island including 4 tests at the Horse of the Year Show (2 x competitors from each island, by chance).

I am pleased to report that the PRs of horses/ponies tested have been very amenable and co-operative to work with and all tests have returned a negative result. I think that most competitors are now accepting of testing as a necessary part of the showing movement; and that sooner or later, their turn will come.

As a result of a 23/24 test we have one pony and the Person Responsible currently under a twelve months disqualification from any involvement or competing at any RAS show or event; or that of any RAS affiliated show/event; following a positive test result for 2 x Forbidden Substances.

Following the passing of Remit 8 last year which expanded on who may take blood samples in the course of a F S Test, Rule CS 3 a) ii) has been expanded to state that “*This mandatory blood sample is to be taken by a Registered Veterinarian, a Licensed Large Animal Practice Nurse or Technician.*” To date this season, all blood samples have been taken by a veterinarian.

All relevant information re RAS Clean Sport can be found on the RAS web site.

I thank the Shows who have had testing within their show program, for their help and co-operation; and all personnel who have witnessed the tests.

The New Zealand Racing Laboratory Services lab are very helpful and co-operative to work with, in processing our tests. We are lucky to have them.

A very big thank you yet again to Christine Roberts for the wonderful job that she does with testing on behalf of the RAS. She is calm, methodical, reassuring, and thorough in following due process. We are lucky to have her as a role model and tutor for future test stewards.

Forbidden Substance testing is a vital tool in helping to ensure fair play in our sport.

I would also thank those who have endorsed me for a further term as the RAS Clean Sport Convenor.

6.5 Equine Health – Cara O’Connor (RAS MPI Representative)

It has been another busy year with a large focus being on the development of the NEIT (National Equine Identification Traceability) system.

This has been a work in progress for a number of years, long prior to my involvement with the NZEHA, but something I believe is very important.

As a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), we have a responsibility to establish a legislation enabling a comprehensive animal identification system.

A robust equine identification system enables rapid tracing during disease outbreaks or natural disasters like Cyclone Gabriel.

It simply means that in case of an outbreak or disaster in a certain area or region, all equines residing in that area, are known and/or can be identified, and owners can be contacted for notification or for further information like recent movements.

Great progress has been made and the NZEHA should be able to report fully on this in the near future.

6.6 Horse of the Year – Cara O’Connor (RAS Showing Section Committee Convenor)

The 2025 Horse of the Year Show was held in Hastings from 4-8 March.

The Showing Section was again run by a small but dedicated RAS Committee, and we saw great entries across majority of sections, including breeds.

It was the usual mix of 4 seasons of weather throughout the week, but the rain was limited and certainly wasn’t enough to dampen the spirits.

HOY Event Management made the call very late in the piece, to open up the entries and drop the qualifications. Ultimately, it’s their show, so their call. RAS are only the guests convening the showing section.

This wasn’t taken too well by many competitors who had already qualified to compete, however we have worked very hard over the last several years to establish a good relationship with HOY and we plan to continue to build on this and improve the communication especially when making these decisions.

Unfortunately, the behaviour of a few competitors and their parents, resulted in complaints after the completion of the show. This is of great concern and not something the RAS will tolerate moving forward. Unfortunately, we were not notified of the behaviour during the show, so we’re unable to act on it at the time.

As the complaints were sent after the show, direct to HOY Management, they are now dealing with these concerns.

Finally, many thanks again to my small but dedicated and hardworking team. They are truly incredible and with a few new members in our team this year, the support and encouragement through the show was outstanding. They continue to volunteer their time year after year, to make this show happen. It’s a huge week, a lot of hard work, but always a week full of fun laughs and good times.

6.7 Judges

6.7.1 National Judges Convenor – Melissa Jebson

During the 2024/2025 show season the District Convenor's have had six regular meetings plus a couple of special meetings called to adjudicate complaints. I attended two District Seminars over the winter with all six seminars going very well with 62% of our Judges attending. Most Districts have held workshops followed by written paper days, bringing on new Judges and initiating upgrades.

Judges had reminders sent out following seminars (especially to catch up with those who did not attend this year) in my Spring letter prior to the commencement of the Show season which also included Rulebook updates following Conference remit results. I also sent out reminders in a Christmas letter which dealt with incidents that occurred at the spring Shows. Even though our Judges are volunteers there are obligations and ethics that we judge under to keep the playing field fair for all competitors and Judges are reminded of these regularly.

Our current RAS Judges list has approximately 180 listed Judges with Judges currently on leave. This list is constantly updated as soon as changes come to hand. Tutor Judges up and down the country have been conducting assessments throughout the season when required and I thank them for the work they do in assessing and mentoring both new and upgrading judges. In January I surveyed our Tutor Judge team with 73% responding. I asked questions relating to their role within the RAS, what additional assistance they need in the role plus how we should deal with Judges that break the rules. This has proved to be a very worthwhile exercise. I am the only person privy to the responses and information gleaned from the feedback has given me a few topics of concern for our July seminars. We are doing a Roadshow this year where all Seminars discuss identical topics, therefore taking the same message to all NZ judges.

Like in all roles there are pleasant sides and unpleasant sides and this year is no different to other years. I have had to work through complaints plus mentor Judges through situations that have arisen. Unfortunately, we have had some social media breeches this year and Judges are constantly being reminded of their obligations. It is very disappointing to all concerned when these breeches occur.

In June, the District Convenors are meeting face-to-face prior to National Conference to upgrade and update our judging process as this has not been looked at since its inception. The judge's application form and process will also be reviewed at this time.

A huge thank you to all our RAS Equestrian Judges and Tutor Judges who work tirelessly at our A&P Shows. It is very much appreciated by our exhibitors having up-skilled, knowledgeable, unbiased judges adjudicating each week. Special thanks to the team of Convenors who have worked diligently and cohesively together throughout the season. Your consistent work in your role is very much appreciated by both our Judges and your fellow Tutor Judges.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the season. Your support and assistance has been very much appreciated. Huge thanks to Christine Roberts who is always extremely supportive to me in my role. Your attention to detail, knowledge and wise words are greatly appreciated.

Lastly, thank you to all our A&P Show Committees who work in with the District Convenors as we navigate our candidate judges and upgrading judges through our judging process. Your support to our Judges is very much appreciated and I wish everyone all the best for the 2025/2026 Showing season.

6.7.2 District Judges' Convenors

6.7.2.a Northern – Melissa Jebson (Acting Convenor)

The 2024/2025 season has been a very productive one for the small pool of thirteen Northern District Judges. All Judges have worked diligently at their eleven District Shows plus judging at Shows out of the District when appointed. The annual Seminar was held at Whangarei A&P Rooms, Barge Park in May attracting just under 80% of Northern District Judges. Here we worked through issues that arose over the previous season, plus held educational sessions. One 3WT completed the required assessments in the spring and one Judge is halfway through the Working Hunter/ Hunter jumping assessment requirements with the final assessment scheduled this coming spring. The RAS Northern District Equestrian Judges Facebook page works well with sharing information and solving issues for the ten Judges who are on this page.

My thanks to Northern District Councillor Stephanie Gowing who has assisted me in facilitating assessments plus with organising the Seminar venue etc. Your help has been invaluable.

6.7.2.b Mid-Northern – Amanda Parkes

During the 2024/2025 calendar year the National Judges Convenor ran a series of online Zoom workshops for five judges upgrading from Grade 2 to Grade 1, plus an upgrade from Grade 3 to Grade 2 in preparation for sitting their written papers. Amanda Parkes ran the exam session together with the assistance of John Fleet from the Northern District.

Subsequent to this, candidates have successfully passed their written papers and two of the upgrading judges to Grade 1 (Dana Adams, and Neil McKenzie-Hall) have also completed the requirements of the practical assessment component of the upgrading process, congratulations to those newly minted Grade 1 judges. The other upgrading judges are yet to complete their practical assessment components and we hope to see this completed during the 2025/2026 season. Congratulations also to Leigh Taylor who passed her Hunter Jumping/Working Hunter written papers and has completed the practical assessments components.

We were sad to lose Jocelyn Charleston as Mid-Northern Equestrian Judges Convenor due to ill health, but Jocelyn has stayed on as a Tutor Judge, part of the Mid Northern judges cohort and has been of great support to Amanda, as has the Mid Northern Horse Stewards collective.

A successful Mid-Northern Judges Seminar was held during May of 2024, with some out of area judges attending as well. The session was more interactive, and the quiz ran by Melissa Jebson was enjoyed by all, with the sentiment that our sessions need to be more interactive! With that in mind, I have created a "Draft Mid Northern Judges Education Program" – this needs some refinement but is something that perhaps that we can take forwards into 2025/2026, there is opportunity to bring in external speakers perhaps from other disciplines and codes to talk about "officiating matters, and the issues that officials face".

A joint Mid-Northern and Northern Judges Seminar is scheduled to be held at the Pukekohe Showgrounds in July of 2025. Thank you to the Franklin A&P society for making their facilities available for this event.

We have been approached by at least two aspiring judges (one from out of area) who wish to become Equestrian Judges, they have since been provided with the Judges Information Pack, courtesy of Christine Roberts, and they will now need to complete the requirements set out as part of the RAS judging process, I have offered to assist in any way that I can.

In regard to remits, I have had several judges express to me that as judges, that as we are in the rings ALL the time and see/hear everything that goes on it would perhaps be appropriate that there was consideration given to enable the judges cohort to comment on the remits, in a formalised way. Especially as all the remits/rules affect the entries that we get (or not) to judge.

On a final note, we have had many of our Mid Northern judge's cohort out and about during the season, with one judge officiating at the Royal Melbourne! I wish everyone the very best for the season going forward into 2025/2026.

6.7.2.c Eastern – Maxine Mulligan

It has been a good show season weather-wise, but the entries are still very low. For those who have attended shows, and the judges who have judged them, they have been happy occasions; and I am pleased to say that we have had no judging issues. With Alan Windle, the Western Judges Convenor back on deck after his 6 month absence, we have worked jointly with the Annual Seminar at Massey on 19th May 2024, workshops and an exam day in December. Professor Chris Rogers of the Equine Vet Faculty at Massey University was our guest speaker again at Massey University, to follow up on the Topic of "Conformation and Movement of the Horse in relation to Unsoundness". He was able to use his video presentation that he could not present in 2023 due to the faulty projector. We had hoped to have live horses to assess as well, but this did not happen in the end. It was a very informative day in an excellent facility and was well received by all. Of our (21) listed judges, ten (10) were able to attend, with six (6) apologies, and four (4) from the Gisborne area attending the Mid-Northern District seminar. There was also one candidate judge present for the day, with 3 candidates apologizing.

The up-coming Seminar is to be held at Manfeild on Sunday 20th July, and is a "Roadshow" with 2 senior NZ Tutor judges as the speakers At the two Eastern District Spring Ribbon Day Shows at the Flaxmere Equestrian Park near Hastings, we had most of our candidate judges there judging, with Tutor or Grade 1 judges standing in beside them to give help and guidance; and where necessary for new candidates, a practical assessment. Both days went very well, and I believe that the candidate judges would have gained a lot out of them. five of these judges went on to

attend workshops in Waverley in November, and on zoom, and then four sat their exam papers at Manfeild in December with Alan, Tutor Carole Isaacson and myself in attendance. Two were upgrade candidates (2 to 1, and 3 to 2). Further combined District workshops and zoom sessions are planned during the winter for those with partial exam passes, and further candidates, with the aim of another exam day in August/September. We did one Grade 1 assessment at the Poverty Bay show for a Mid-Northern judge. I wish Joan Mitchell a very happy retirement and ongoing enjoyment from attending shows in the future. I thank her most sincerely for her judging contributions over the years.

Thank you to the Tutor Judges who have so willingly worked with and assessed new A&P upgrading judges, and contributed so much to the Seminar, Workshops and Exam day. I am grateful to Alan Windle, my fellow Western Judges' Convenor, and Western Tutor judge Jan Macdonald, in working together for most of our District 'happenings' over the year, and mutual support of each other. Thank you also to Alan for the continuing use of his Café for our combined Tutor Judge meetings.

The next one is planned for Sunday 11th May. I wish all our judges well for the coming show season, and thank them for their contribution to Equestrian showing by giving freely of their time and knowledge. It is a pleasure to work with them all.

6.7.2.d Western – Alan Windle

It is great to report the District in conjunction with Eastern has had a very busy but rewarding 12 months.

We had a very successful annual judges seminar held at Massey University hosted by Eastern but held in Western with an excellent speaker and a major focus on lameness an area many judges still have trouble identifying. This was a full weekend as the day prior at the same venue the North Island Tutor Judges Bi-annual seminar was held with the National Convenor in attendance.

We then moved on and held a live workshop for new, upgrading and judges already listed that needed an attendance, in November at this venue in Waverley. It was very well attended with candidates from Taranaki, Manawatu, Southern Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa. We then a couple of weeks later held a Zoom workshop to field questions and more training, took candidates out with Tutor judges whom were judging at the Feilding Show and the following weekend held a very large written paper examination at Manfield Park. I am pleased to advise we had a candidate successful in coming onto the list and with an attendance over winter at our seminar and a practical assessment will become a Grade 3 WT judge, also a successful candidate upgrading from Grade 3 to 2 and when practicals are obtained will be fully fledged at Grade 2.

We have over winter our 2 yearly road show happening for all Districts with the same speakers covering the whole country and I am honoured to be asked to be a speaker on the Road Show. Our seminar in conjunction with Eastern but hosted by Western will be held at Manfield Park.

Our combined AGM Tutor Judges for both districts will be held on Sunday 11th May at my cafe in Shannon where our convenors will be chosen and current tutor judges ratified.

We will over winter be holding another workshop and exam day for new and candidates with partial passes to attend – date and venue to be advised.

I wish to thank Maxine my counterpart in Eastern for the effort she puts in and help given to make our districts flow along extremely well.

Thank you for the help and encouragement given to me to strive on and keep our judges lists current and user friendly.

6.7.2.e Central – Melissa Jebson

Since our 2024 Annual General Meeting we have held two Zoom meetings plus one face-to-face meeting. Unfortunately, three meetings one in May one in December and one in February had to be postponed due to unavailability.

Over the last twelve months we have had assessments and stand-ins keeping us busy. We held a successful workshop in April at Canterbury Park, followed by written paper days in May at Darfield plus also another in August in Kaikoura.

Our July Seminar was well attended at the Hornby Workingmen's Club. My thanks to Alan Windle for taking the Seminar with assistance from my Tutor Judge panel due to my absence as I was overseas at the time.

Central District had two successful Grade 3 paper passes with one candidate successfully through the assessment process and the other having her third assessment at the final Show of the season, Mackenzie on the 21st April. We also have a candidate doing her final Working Hunter assessment at Mackenzie Show which will complete her process through the Working Hunter and Hunter Jumping disciplines. We had one successful upgrade from Grade 2 to Grade 1 which was completed before Christmas. At this stage Central Districts currently have eight candidate judges at various stages within the process, six Showing judges and two Hunter jumping/Working hunter judges.

Over the last twelve months, it has been reported to Tutor Judges that there is an unhealthy atmosphere and environment creeping into our Shows in the Equestrian space by some of our top-level competitors. Shows need to be aware of this and if reported, need to action with a yellow card or red card if bad. Our competitors need to know that Shows will not tolerate poor sportsmanship or unfavourable behaviour at any level.

Thank you to our Tutor Judges for everything that you have done for our candidates and Judges over the past 12 months. Thank you to our Judges who have officiated at Central District Shows throughout the season. You are all volunteers and both the Shows, and the competitors very much appreciate the time that you spend both in the Show ring and at Seminars, keeping up to date with current trends. Thank you also to Christine Roberts who assists me whenever I request assistance. This is very much appreciated. A huge thank you to all the Central District Shows that have facilitated stand-ins and assessments throughout the season. This assistance is vital in training new Equestrian Judges into the role and advancing Judges through the levels. I wish everyone all the best for our 2025 – 2026 Show season.

6.7.2.f Southern – Kristine Russell

Well, another busy year has passed and I must say there wasn't too many wet shows this year which is outstanding.

In July 2024 we held our judge's seminar at the Invercargill Highland Pipe band hall in Invercargill. We had a fantastic turnout with a focus this year once again on the uneven horse, type and conformation. We had some great feedback on the interactive learning activities we had set up. This year's judge's seminar is to be held in Mosgiel at the Otago Taieri Showgrounds on Saturday 26th July. This year it is the national road show run by Melissa Jebson and Alan Windle. In May 2024 myself and the other district tutor judges attended our biannual tutor judges meeting in Christchurch. This meeting allowed all the tutor judges to discuss matters and get on the same page on topics and upskill on areas we felt are important for the judges of our districts.

Also in May we ran a very successful Judges workshop in Wanaka. Thank you, Carol Armstrong, for allowing us to use her horses and facilities. This gave our judges a very hands-on day to learn about conformation, paces and soundness. We have upcoming workshops happening again this April and May with exams happening in early June and July/August.

In July 2024 an exam was held in Winton where we had one grade one sit, two grade twos sitting, a working hunter sit and a hunter jumping resit. I'm pleased to report that one of our candidates in grade 2 had a good pass as did our Hunter Jumping resit and our Working Hunter Candidate. Our grade 1 and one of our grade 2 candidates unfortunately failed. This coming winter we will see one grade One sit, A grade one and a grade two resit. We don't have any new candidate judges ready to sit the grade 3 exam yet.

During the season the tutors were able to perform a number of assessments for both our district and other districts around the country. It was nice to see that our district had judges upgrade in all grades. This included one new grade 1 judge, and a new grade 2 judge.

It was great to see the shows getting their judges in nice and early and getting a variety of judges both near and far and getting them to me ASAP. A huge thank you to those that do this. If a complaint occurs, I can quickly look up who judged. On that note could A&P shows please use judges that are qualified to judge the section and are on the current judges list. Still have a couple of shows that don't do this and it's very frustrating.

So nice to have Strath Taieri show come back on board this year. They used RAS judges and looked like they had a great day.

Our conference is coming up in June and I will be attending judges' convenors meeting the two days prior to conference and then part of conference.

We farewelled Bronwyn Woodhead and Andra Dickson Smith this year from the judges list. As Judges convenor I would like to thank these two ladies for giving up her time to judge, in what can be a very thankless job. I wish them well with her future endeavours.

Once again, a huge thank you to our Horse Stewards Chairman. It's great that you understand the showing scene and the rules so well. I thought your remit zoom meeting we had was a fantastic idea and would encourage you to open this up to all our shows so they get some knowledge on these remits before voting. Lastly, I would like to thank my other four tutor judges but especially Janice Mitchell who stepped in and helped me do this job when Brian suddenly found out he had leukaemia. I will be forever grateful for this. Southern districts shows had two people helping them find judges and sorting problems. It is nice to get feedback from competitors saying that we had the judges skilled and up to date in our district. As a district we have the largest percentage of equestrian judges that compete themselves and at times this can be hard to manage with our current judges' rules. However, I feel as a district we are leaps ahead of other districts when it comes to equestrian judges because we are in touch with what's going on in the show ring and know what it's like to get a poor judge.

I wish all the Southern Districts A&P shows all the best for the upcoming 25/26 showing season.

6.8 Measuring

6.8.1 National Measuring – Rick Croft

The last year was relatively quiet in the measuring department. The measuring stands across the country do an excellent job, and this means we have few problems to deal with. There were a few routine queries that were resolved within the Horse Stewards Council Executive. My personal approach when questions arise – follow the book. The rule book is fairly clear, and if there is an issue it is usually cleared up with the remits.

The most significant issue that came up was a question regarding measuring stand safety. It was presented in a generic sense, so there was nothing to action, but it got me thinking about Health and Safety. So the remainder of my report will address the future.

Let the measuring begin!

It's that time of the year again - August 1st is right around the corner.

Now is the time to make sure our measuring stands are well prepared for the upcoming season. Stand calibrations need to be current, and we need to have current forms in stock to ensure a smooth service for the folks bringing their horses and ponies to be measured.

I would like to touch on measuring stand safety. If you are operating a measuring facility, I would ask that you stand back and take a good look. Has anything changed in or around the stand? Many stands have been in use for a long time, and we can become so familiar with them, that we overlook things that might have become a problem.

Here are the areas we can check to ensure a safe and successful season:

- Is the area secure so a loose horse can't get to a public road
- Is parking available and suitable for floats and boxes
- Is access to the stand clear, with good footing
- Is the entry into, and exit from the stand clear of obstacles, sharp corners (or old corrugated iron edges)
- Have the personnel been educated for work in close proximity to horses
- Are they confident around horses of all types, and do they know the process for dealing with a 'dangerous' horse
- Is the Metcalf unit in good, solid operational condition
- Is the floor of the stand sound, flat and free of dirt/mud

Thank you to all the volunteers who give their time and knowledge to keep the process of measuring a positive experience for the competitors!

I've been measuring over twenty years, and pretty much seen it all...yet every year I learn something new! So any time you have questions or concerns about your stands or your measures, please feel free to contact me, and I'm happy to help in any way I can.
Have a safe and successful 2025/2026 season!

8. FEES AND LEVIES

8.1 Levies Collected as at 10 July 2025

Levies still to be paid

Ceased Membership in 2022 or 2024

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
NORTHERN				CENTRAL			
Auckland	No Show	No Show	No Show	Amberley	\$977	\$938	\$853
Bay of Islands	\$767	\$970	\$1042	Amuri	\$423	\$389	
Clevedon	\$943	\$992	\$885	Ashburton	\$1311	\$1260	\$1310
Franklin	\$675	\$662	\$807	Banks Peninsula	\$618	\$499	\$451
Helensville	No Show	\$523	\$630	Buller	\$182	\$273	No Eq section
Kaikohe	\$365	\$485	\$402	Canterbury	\$2238	\$2178	\$1285
Kaitaia	\$385	\$211	\$576	Cheviot	No Show	\$613	\$65
Kumeu	\$685	\$600	\$169	Duvauchelle	\$328	\$491	
Nth Hokianga	\$283	\$311	\$504	Ellesmere	\$1291	\$1341	
North Kaipara	\$712	\$585	\$408	Flaxbourne	\$485	\$444	\$600
North Waioara	\$594	\$610	\$431	Golden Bay	\$262	\$249	\$321
Whangarei	\$967	\$935	\$1287	Hawarden	\$588	No Show	\$439
				Inangahua	\$592	\$310	\$267
MID-NORTHERN		2023/2024		Kaikoura	\$784	No Show	\$798
Cambridge	\$1310	\$1697	\$967	Mackenzie Highland	\$584	\$764	\$603
Katikati	No Show	\$243	\$300	Malvern	\$918	\$1185	\$890
Matamata	\$687	No Show	\$663	Marlborough	\$622	\$1212	\$710
Morrinsville	\$531	\$486	\$544	Mayfield	\$958	\$618	\$482
NI Premier	\$659	\$570	\$446	Methven	\$703	\$661	\$570
Paeroa	No Show	No Show	No Show	Motueka	\$708	\$417	\$276
Rotorua	\$155	\$122	\$164	Murchison	\$761	\$629	\$525
Tauranga	\$223	\$113	\$18	Nelson	\$562	\$609	\$774
Te Aroha	\$591	\$862	\$650	Northern (Rangiora)	\$1289	\$2057	No Show
Te Aroha H&H	No Show	\$175	\$127	Oxford	\$1048	\$1090	\$1193
Te Kauwhata	\$1066	\$1213	\$1567	Rai Valley	\$361	\$520	\$540
Te Puke	\$185	\$214	\$247	Sth Canty Show	\$1207	\$1009	\$460
Waihi	\$378	\$513	\$565	Sth Canty Eq Show	\$1189	\$1096	\$788
Waikato	\$1019	\$1227	\$2246	SI Premier Show	\$703	\$696	\$897
				South Westland		\$36	\$0
EASTERN	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Temuka-Geraldine	\$975	\$464	\$510
Ctl.Hawkes Bay	\$977	\$290		Westland (Hokitika)	\$332	\$486	\$212
Dannevirke		\$1076	\$1304				
Hawkes Bay	\$2349	\$2000	\$2452	SOUTHERN	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Masterton	\$1236	\$925		Central Otago	\$971	\$929	\$810
NZ National H&P	\$1463	\$1920	\$1031	Gore	\$995	\$737	\$499
Poverty Bay	\$1275	\$1065	\$1324	Lake County	\$407		\$460
Wairarapa	\$1284	\$1438	\$1333	Maniototo		\$347	
Wairoa		No Show	No Eq Show	Mt Benger	\$400	\$708	\$525
				North Otago	\$599	\$638	\$777
WESTERN	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Otago Taieri	\$893	\$742	\$720
Egmont	\$876	\$1028	\$1167	Palmerston/Waihemo	\$560		\$420
Feilding	\$1525	\$1482	\$1430	South Otago	\$463	\$537	\$350
Horowhenua	\$1354	\$1489	\$1087	Southland	\$1001	\$877	\$839
Manawatu	\$1475	\$1478	\$1313	Strath Taieri		\$535	\$573
Stratford	\$985	\$1075	\$744	Tokomairiro	\$608	\$546	\$569
Taihape	\$112	No Show	No Show	Upper Clutha	\$1354		
Taranaki H&P	\$333	\$222	\$210	Waiau			\$356
Waimarino	\$373	\$443	\$550	West Otago	\$674	\$454	
Wanganui	\$2092	\$1211	\$958	Winton	\$773	\$830	\$615
Waverley	\$1209	\$835	\$685	Wyndham	\$722	\$811	\$679

UNITED BREEDS SOCIETY COUNCIL (UBS) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



Sunday 29 June 2025 – 9.15am, Hotel Elms, Christchurch.

ATTENDANCE:

United Breeds Society (UBS) Council Executive: Ben Burgess (HSCEX Chair/Executive), Kelly Allison (Dairy Cattle Breeds Chair/Ayrshire/Jersey), Ian Stevenson (Sheep Breeds Chair), Leigh Taylor (MND Manager/Donkey & Mule/Side Saddle/Te Kauwhata),

Executive: Rachel Walker (President/Otago-Taieri), Hamish Grigg (Treasurer), Sophie Holst (Helensville), Sophie Kirk (Executive/2025 Rural Ambassador), Caitlin Rhodes (co-opted - 2024 Rural Ambassador).

Christine Roberts (Operations Manager), Jill Timms (Admin/Horowhenua).

Committees: Helena McLeod-Nevin (HSCEX Chair), Melissa Jebson (Hon.Life Member/Judges Convenor/Malvern), Maxine Mulligan (Hon.Life Member/Rural Ambassador Judge/Clean Sport Convenor),

Members: Sarah Carter-Hall (Golden Horse), Lorraine Gardner (Cheviot/Gypsy Cob), Annie Gill (MND Rural Ambassador), Steph Gowing (Whangarei), Elizabeth Graham (SD Rural Ambassador), Eion Gregory, Merran Hain (Poverty Bay), Rob Hall (SD Chair), Annabelle Hampton (Mackenzie), Kelly Hanna (Cheviot), Richard Holst (Franklin), Nicky Hutchinson (Hon.Life Member, Banks Peninsula, Duvauchelle), Vicki Jagersma (Stratford), John Jebson (CD Chair), Alice Jones (Oxford/Rural Ambassador Judge), Jackie Kelly (South Otago), Duncan McArthur (CD Council/Temuka Geraldine), Bruce McRobbie (MND Chair/Morrinsville), Michelle Radford (Stratford), Rachel Robinson (Northern), Phillippa Sanders (CD Councillor/Blk & Col. Sheep), Peter Sherriff (Holstein), Jane Stalker (Upper Clutha), Ruth Stiven (SD Manager/West Otago), Sue Thomas (Hawkes Bay), Diana Timms (Hon.Life Member/Cheviot Sheep), Gilbert Timms (Hon.Life Member/Perendale Sheep), Paul Vanner (Stratford), Jaime Winter (Clydesdale), Bernadette Woffeden (Shetland Pony Breeders), Kay Worthington (Lowlines).

1	Welcome	Discussion - Action
	Rachel Walker - President	Warm welcome extended by the President, to meeting attendees.

2	Chair of Meeting	Discussion - Action
	Ben Burgess – RAS United Breeds Society Council Chairperson	Welcome from the Chair, who opened the 2025 United Breeds Society (UBS) Council Annual General Meeting.

3	Apologies	Discussion - Action
3.1	Mark Fleming (UBS Beef Cattle Chair).	Decision: THAT the apologies as noted in 3.1 be received.
		Moved: B Burgess CARRIED

4	Conflict of Interest	Discussion - Action
		No conflict of interest declared.

5	Chairperson's Report	Discussion - Action
5.1	United Breeds Society (UBS) Chairperson	See page 38-39. Decision: THAT the United Breeds Society Chairperson's 2024.2025 Annual Report as tabled, be received.
		Moved: B Burgess Seconded: P Vanner CARRIED

6 Standard follow up items		Discussion - Action
6.1	Confirmation of 2024 United Breeds Council (UBS) Annual General Meeting Minutes	Decision: THAT the Minutes of 9 June 2024 United Breeds Council (UBS) Annual General Meeting as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.
		Moved: B Burgess Seconded: I Stevenson CARRIED
6.2	Matters arising from Minutes (not on Agenda)	No matters arising.
6.3	General Business added to the Agenda	Royal Shows (Gilbert Timms)

BEEF CATTLE BREEDS – Mark Fleming (Chairperson)		
7 Reports		Discussion - Action
7.1	United Breeds Society (UBS) Chairperson, Ben Burgess stood in to chair the meeting due to the absence of Mark Fleming.	See pages 39. Decision: THAT Beef Cattle Breeds Chairperson's 2024.2025 Annual Report as verbally read, be received.
		Moved: B Burgess CARRIED
7.2	7.2 Australia NZ Blonde d' Aquitaine Society 7.3 Belgian Blue Cattle Society 7.4 Charolais Breeders NZ Inc, 7.5 Dexter Cattle Society NZ Inc. 7.6 Galloway Cattle Society 7.7 NZ Angus Association 7.8 NZ Beef Shorthorn Assn 7.9 NZ Charolais Cattle Society 7.10 NZ Hereford Association 7.11 NZ Highland Cattle Society 7.12 NZ Highland Lifestyle Society 7.13 NZ Maine Anjou Cattle Soc 7.14 NZ Murray Grey Beef Cattle 7.15 NZ Red Poll Cattle Breeders 7.16 NZ Salers Society 7.17 NZ Lowline Breeders 7.18 Simmental Cattle Breeders 7.19 South Devon Cattle Society 7.20 Speckle Park International 7.21 Welsh Black Cattle Breeders	Breed Societies delegates were all asked for a written report – see pages 39-40. Decision: THAT the Annual Reports of the affiliated Beef Cattle Breeds Societies as tabled, be received.
		Moved: B Burgess CARRIED
		Meeting expressed disappointment that only two affiliated Beef Cattle Breed Societies furnished reports.

8 Royal Show Schedules		Discussion - Action
		<i>As part of the Strategic Business Review all Beef Cattle Section schedules will be reviewed.</i>

9	Correspondence (Inward)	Discussion - Action
9.1		No correspondence received or tabled.

10	General Business	Discussion - Action
10.1	Interbreed Beef Cattle Judging Seminars	The seminar held in Wellsford was an enjoyable day by all who attended. New Grade 3 judges were added to the list and some listed judges upgraded. A South Island Seminar is to be convened later in 2025.

11	Election of Chairperson	Discussion - Action
11.1	Beef Cattle Breeds Chairperson	Mr Mark Fleming – current term ends. No nomination was received by 15 March 2025. Executive will follow the Constitution process in co-opting a Chairperson for a term of one year.

DAIRY CATTLE BREEDS – Kelly Allison (Chairperson)		
12	Reports	Discussion - Action
12.1	Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson – Kelly Allison	See pages 40-41. Verbal update – very pleased to see a North Island and South Island Royal Show has been awarded in 2025. Decision: THAT the Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson 2024.2025 Annual Report as tabled, and additional verbal report, be received. Moved: K Allison Seconded: B Burgess CARRIED
12.2	12.2 Brown Swiss Cattle Breed. 12.3 NZ Ayrshire Association 12.4 NZ Guernsey Cattle Breed. 12.5 NZ Holstein-Friesian Assn. 12.6 NZ Jersey Cattle Breeders 12.7 NZ Milking Shorthorn Assn. 12.8 Purebred Jersey Breed Soc. 12.9 South Island Dairy Heifer. 12.10 Dairy Cattle Ethics Comm.	Breed Societies delegates were all asked for a written report - see pages 41-42 \$4190 received in the 2024.2025 financial year. See pg 42. Decision: THAT the Annual Reports of the affiliated Dairy Cattle Breeds Societies as tabled, be received. Moved: K Allison Seconded: D McArthur CARRIED

13	Royal Show Schedules	Discussion - Action
		<i>As part of the Strategic Business Review all Dairy Cattle Section schedules will be reviewed.</i>

14	Correspondence (Inward)	Discussion - Action
14.1		No correspondence received or tabled.
15	General Business	Discussion - Action
15.1	Dairy Ethics Committee	Question was asked if there was any testing undertaken in the 2024.2025 show season? No report was received or tabled from the Dairy Ethics Committee.
	15.1.1 In-Milk Dairy Cattle Levy	Messages have gone out on a regular basis to Shows reminding them that they need to pay their In-Milk Dairy Cattle levy to RAS Head Office, which is held for the Dairy Ethics Committee for their use of any expenses.

16	Election of Chairperson	Discussion - Action
16.1	Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson	Mr Kelly Allison – current term ends. One Nomination Received - Mr Kelly Allison Nominator One: Tokomairiro A&P Society (Nigel Woodhead- President) Nominator Two: Otago Taieri A&P Society (Dale Harris- President) Mr Kelly Allison's nomination will go through to the Annual General Meeting for ratification.

SHEEP BREEDS – Ian Stevenson (Chairperson)		
17	Reports	Discussion - Action
17.1	Sheep Breeds Chairperson – Ian Stevenson	See pages 43-44. Decision: THAT the Sheep Breeds Chairperson's 2024.2025 Annual Report as tabled, be received. Moved: I Stevenson Seconded: G Timms CARRIED
17.2	17.2 Black & Coloured Sheep Assn. 17.3 Cheviot Sheep Society 17.4 NZ Sheep Breeders Assn. 17.5 NZ Southdown Sheep Society 17.6 Perendale Sheep Society NZ	Breed Societies delegates were all asked for a written report – see pages 44-45. Decision: THAT the Annual Reports of the affiliated Sheep Breeds Societies as tabled, be received. Moved: I Stevenson Seconded: P Sanders CARRIED

18	Royal Show Schedules	Discussion - Action
		<i>As part of the Strategic Business Review all Sheep Breeds Section schedules will be reviewed.</i>

19	Competitions	Discussion - Action
19.1	NZ Ewe Hogget Competition	NZ Sheep Breeders did not run a competition in 2024.2025, and have not for a few years now, due to the cost.
19.2	National Golden Fleece Exhibition	see page 45. Host for 2025 was Mackenzie A&P Society on Easter Monday 21 April. Host 2026 – Central Otago A&P Society Host 2027 – Oxford A&P Association.

20	Correspondence (Inward)	Discussion - Action
20.1		None received.

21	General Business	Discussion - Action
21.1	Black and Colour Sheep Assn	Pip Sanders – the Association has standardised their shearing date for showing sheep to on or after 20 May and would like shows to take on the board this date. Action: Black and Coloured Sheep Association to forward the new standardised shearing date to upload to the website and forward to member shows.
21.2	Ewe Hogget Competition	Regional competitions are still run around the Districts.

22	Election of Chairperson	Discussion - Action
22.1	Sheep Breeds Chairperson	Mr Ian Stevenson – term remains current.

OTHER BREEDS – Ben Burgess (BB) Chairperson		
23	Reports	Discussion - Action
23.1	23.1 Alpaca Association of NZ 23.2 Mohair NZ 23.3 NZ Boer Goat 23.4 NZ Dairy Goat Breeders Assn. 23.5 Llama Association 23.6 NZ Pig Association 23.7 NZ Sheep Dog Trials 23.8 Premier Dairy Goats NZ 23.9 Rare Breeds Association	Breed Societies delegates were all asked for a written report – see pages 46-47. Alice Jones – will follow up with the NZDGBA for a report. Good number of exhibitors showed at the Royal Event section held at the Temuka-Geraldine 2025 show. Decision: THAT the Annual Reports of the affiliated Breeds Societies as tabled, be received.
		Moved: B Burgess Seconded: A Jones CARRIED

24	Royal Show Schedules	Discussion - Action
		As part of the Strategic Business Review all Breeds Section schedules will be reviewed.

25	Correspondence (Inward)	Discussion - Action
25.1		None tabled.

26	General Business	Discussion - Action
26.1	As noted in 6.3	No further business tabled.

GENERAL – Ben Burgess (BB) Chairperson		
27	Young Judges and Paraders	Discussion - Action
27.1	RAS of NZ Young Judges Final	No competition held in 2024.2025. Discussions are ongoing with the prospects of rejoining the Australasian competition.
27.2	Australasian Final.	NZ RAS did not participate in the 2025 Australasian Final as per the decision of the United Breeds Society Council in previous years.

28	Any other Breed Business	Discussion - Action
28.1	Royal Shows	<p>Gilbert Timms – outlined his involvement with Royal Shows for 64 years. In his opinion, NZ is too small to hold two Royal Shows in the one year. It's great that two Associations have put up their hand for 2025, but two Royals are watering down the competition. By him judging at one and competing at another, he feels that it's hard to establish what will be the real Royal Show Champion stock. Recommends that only one Royal Show be held in one year, alternating between the islands each year.</p> <p>Peter Sherriff – in his personal opinion, Royal Shows used to be a big thing in the industry. Feels that a Royal Show should be spread around the venues and continue with one in the North Island and one in the South Island.</p> <p>Bruce McRobbie – would like to see one Royal Show only in the country per year.</p> <p>Paul Vanner – Stratford committee accepted that there is to be two Royal Shows, and both are to be held in the same year/month. The feedback from his community was that a Royal should alternate annually between islands.</p> <p>Rob Hall – disagree that two Royals makes the competition watered down. Having two Royals in one year is positive – costs of travel for competitors to the other is prohibitive for some people to compete at. A Royal Show in different seasons would be more advantageous.</p> <p>Kay Worthington – positive move to have two Royals. Need to also look at promoting the shows to the public and this</p>

		<p>should be taken an advantage of. The mana of Royal Events around the country have been great.</p> <p>Melissa Jebson – having two Royal Shows in one year may not happen again, it may be a one off.</p> <p>Annie Gill – with selling progeny, having two Royal Shows loose the marketing of that progeny as the cows are advertised as Royal Show champions. Having two Shows close together means that you are not going to get exhibitors travelling to the other island to show.</p> <p>Hamish Grigg – previous Canterbury Royal Shows have shown that less than 10% exhibitors/competitors are from the North Island.</p> <p>Rachel Walker (President) – the members voted in and instructed the Executive to award two Royal Shows, one in the North Island and one in the South Island. Suggest that further discussions be had in each district with their member shows, asking for their thoughts of awarding two Royals in one year. Recommends that any change to this directive to the Executive should be thoroughly considered by all members and only after we see how it goes this year (as it's a first).</p> <p>Kelly Allison – in 2016 it was a heated debate. At the time the Executive went back to the hosts of the Royal Show rotation and at the time and they were against the rotation, due to securing any ongoing sponsorship.</p> <p>Conclusion – to change any current format, a vote would need to be put to the members.</p>

29	Election of Chairperson	Discussion - Action
29.1	United Breeds Society (UBS) Chairperson	Mr Ben Burgess – term remains current.

30	Close	Discussion - Action
		The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting.
		Meeting was declared closed at 9.54am.

5. UBS CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Ben Burgess

Welcome along to the annual RAS conference – a somewhat kinder year weather wise for the 24/25 season although not without it challenges in some areas. It's good to see schedules lifting across dairy, sheep and beefs and looking forward to it continuing.

A great beef cattle judge's seminar was held back in May this year. A great day and turn out, special thanks to the Woolly family for organizing the cattle and venue. The day saw several new people join the judges list as associates and several judges graded up.

Looking forward to this year hosting a Royal A&P Show in the North Island at Stratford A&P along with one in the South Island with Canterbury A&P also hosting a Royal Show.

I had the pleasure of going round some shows this year both as a competitor and judge. Show attendance and numbers seem to rebound and it is positive I believe to see the bridge that our shows and breed societies offer to the public. The educational aspect we provide should not be undervalued.

Agricultural and pastoral shows are a significant part of New Zealand's rural culture and heritage. They serve as a platform for farmers to showcase their livestock, crops, farming techniques and more. They also provide an opportunity for communities to come together and celebrate rural life and meet up with friends and family. It was fantastic to see this aspect and the importance of it in this year's budget and I'm sure the money will be put to good use across the country in showcase our rural excellence.

I look forward to catching up with everyone again in the South Island for conference.

7. REPORTS – BEEF CATTLE

7.1 Beef Cattle Breeds Chairperson – Mark Fleming

Welcome to this year's RAS Beef Chairman's Report.

Well, we've had a very warm Autumn throughout the Country. The stock are looking well as you drive around, with good feed crops, Hay barns full, Silage pits and Silage bales a plenty on the farms ready for the winter. June now takes us into winter with relatively warmer soil temps than normal.

The calf sale prices have been strong as a lot of properties have the feed to carry calves through. It will be interesting to see if we have a mild winter to follow.

Many of you will know that the Nait System has now moved to OSPRI. They have taken over the administration of the National Data base and you will be able to continue all your Nait Recording and Transfers on this new site. Ospri will also continue with the M Bovis work that MPI have been involved in over the past years. OSPRI are now looking at updating Nait into a new version. So, any thoughts from yourselves about enhancing the system is very much welcomed by OSPRI.

As of 7th May 2025, MPI has updated their M Bovis Eradication programme to show that there are Zero (0) Active Herds Confirmed Properties in New Zealand. There is how ever 13 Properties under active surveillance.

Properties under active surveillance: We place a farm under active surveillance when the risk of M. Bovis infection is low.

This includes farms that: • sent cattle to a farm which later became infected • neighbour an infected farm • received cattle from an infected farm before we believe that farm was infected.

We do tests on these properties, including testing management groups (mobs) of cattle that might have been exposed to M. Bovis. There's no evidence of M. Bovis spreading across farm boundaries, unless cattle have mixed or interacted. The risk is so low that the farms do not need to be placed under movement restrictions. A very small number of farms placed under active surveillance are found to be infected.

This year we have two Royal A&P Shows. One at Stratford A&P and the other at Canterbury A&P. I again enjoyed a couple of excellent days at the Wanaka show, amazing weather, with great attendance from the public. To our other A&Ps keep up the good work with your diverse schedule of classes and events that are unique to your shows. Every A&P's formula is different which makes them strong and fun for their community.

Stud Breeders are in full swing with bull sales, with prices holding up well. Bull buyers are looking for those good Genetics in our studs. Keep up the good work putting the best Genetics you can out there for our Commercial Beef Industry.

Please remember if you have young stockmen and women that wish to be involved in the judging competitions or the Rural awards competitions, please put their names forward at you're A&P shows or your Breed Society.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and help over this last year with differing beef issues and invite anyone who has concerns or questions to please contact me as I am here as your Beef Representative to help you and your breed.

7.2 Australia NZ Blonde d' Aquitaine Society - No report received

7.3 Belgian Blue Cattle Society – No report received

7.4 Charolais Breeders NZ Inc – No report received

7.5 Dexter Cattle Society NZ Inc. – No report received.

7.6 Galloway Cattle Society – No report received.

7.7 NZ Angus Association – No report received.

7.8 NZ Beef Shorthorn Assn – No report received.

7.9 NZ Charolais Cattle Society – Annette Robinson (Administrator)

The New Zealand Charolais Cattle Society (Inc) celebrated their 54th Annual General Meeting in Nelson this year.

The main topics/remits for 2025 were the Future of the Society, the Constitution and reregistration of the Society under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022

The Societies Council remains stable with Mr Stuart Bryant (of Nelson) as President of the Society.

The membership of the Society has remained steady, and the small group remains passionate about the breed and its future as a terminal sire for the beef industry.

The Society has 13 Breeding members, 11 Associate members and 2 Life Members.

7.10 NZ Hereford Association – No report

7.11 NZ Highland Cattle Society – No report

7.12 NZ Lifestyle Highland Society – No report received.

7.13 NZ Maine Anjou Cattle Soc – No report received.

7.14 NZ Murray Grey Beef Cattle – No report received.

7.15 NZ Red Poll Cattle Breeders – No report received.

7.16 NZ Salers Society – No report received

7.17 NZ Lowline Breeders – Kay Worthington (Delegate)

The major development for the year was the merger of the South Island and North Island Lowline promotion groups into a single body, New Zealand Lowline Breeders.

The aim is to consolidate resources when organising field days to promote the breed, to encourage and support members to show their cattle, and to improve communication with emails and regular newsletters. The NZLB Facebook page attracts active debate.

The retirement, and pending retirement, of some established studs has reduced members in the south but there is renewed interest in the breed among life style block owners. Enthusiasm remains high in the north with a successful field day at a stud property north of Auckland in March.

The breed's only school stud, Rangiora High, has progressed with its Paddock to Plate concept, using meat from animals from the herd in its hospitality classes, and hosting an evening for supporters with a range of international beef dishes cooked by students.

Membership numbers stand at 34 registered studs, 25 in the north and 9 in the south (7 active).

7.18 Simmental Cattle Breeders – No report received..

7.19 South Devon Cattle Society – No report received.

7.20 Speckle Park International – No report received.

7.21 Welsh Black Cattle Breeders – No report received.

12. REPORTS – DAIRY CATTLE

12.1 Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson – Kelly Allison

As I write my report this year the dairy industry is in very good heart with a \$10 plus milk price for this season, with most commentators predicting a similar payout for next season, hopefully this comes to fruition. The dairy industry is also benefiting from a very good beef schedule meaning surplus animals are worth good money. But of course, the past year has not been all smooth sailing, with a very challenging spring in Southland and a large percentage of the North Island suffering from drought in summer/autumn, which will have checked production in these areas.

The sale season has come and gone, with very good results and some of the highest averages seen in the industry which reflects the positivity in the industry at present.

This years' show season has come to an end and by all accounts has been successful with good numbers in the dairy ring. I have travelled to a number of shows and was impressed with the numbers and standard of stock exhibited.

Moving forward it is great to see a North Island and South Island Royal A&P Show concept realised. This is something I personally have wanted to see for a number of years. I congratulate the Executive and the shows involved for making this happen and look forward to attending both these events next season.

12.2 Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders – No report received.

12.3 NZ Ayrshire Association – Pam Goodin (General Manager).

Championship shows were held this season at Morrinsville in the North Island and Otago Taieri in the South Island, and along with the NZ Dairy Event at Feilding were well supported by members.

The Ayrshire On Farm Challenge is moving from strength to strength in terms of member participation and regional results have been announced. National results will be announced at the Association's Annual Conference in June.

The two specialist Ayrshire young handler classes, the Greenlane Trophy for young handlers aged 5-12 and the Fredrickson Trophy for young handlers aged 13-25 years were contested at both the North and South Island Championships.

Ayrshire NZ youth members also took part in the Arran Trophy for the Ayrshire Young Judge Competition at the NZ Dairy Event, with the first two placegetters representing Ayrshire New Zealand in the NZ Dairy Breeds Federation organised Worldwide Sires All Breeds Young Judge Competition.

Joint Jersey/Ayrshire Judging Certification days took place in in Taranaki and Waikato in February. All Ayrshire judges regularly re-certify.

12.4 NZ Guernsey Cattle Breeders - No report received.

12.5 NZ Holstein-Friesian Association – Cherilyn Watson (General Manager)

Showing was strong in the 2024/25 year with the Holstein Friesian Breed well represented throughout the country. This has also allowed Holstein Friesian NZ to be out and about engaging with members face to face again. Alongside this we have still run our extensive social media and online platforms, allowing us larger reach both in New Zealand and overseas.

Our highly successful HFNZ/Semex on Farm Competition continues to gain momentum with an increase in numbers again for the 2025 competition. This competition takes place completely on-farm, with animals firstly being judged within region, and then the top 2 in each class, from each region, going through to the national final. The national finalists are all judged again by one judge, with the winners to be announced at our Annual Conference in June 2025.

Our 2024/25 HFNZ North Island Championships were held as part of the 2025 NZ DairyEvent and saw Tahora Sidekick Legacy2-ET VG88 owned by Tahora Farms, Tai Tapu crowned as the Supreme Holstein Friesian North Island and NZ DairyEvent Champion Cow.

The HFNZ South Island Championships took place at the Canterbury A & P Show in November 2024. Belbrook Speed Marjorie EX, owned by Belbrook Holsteins, Rangiora was awarded Holstein Friesian Supreme South Island Champion Cow. Congratulations to all exhibitors on a success show season and thank you for putting the Holstein Friesian cow to the fore.

The National All Dairy Breeds Youth Camp is now in its eleventh year and is a major focus for Holstein Friesian New Zealand's Black & White Youth programme. This camp is open to young dairy enthusiasts from any breed and runs over 4 days. In 2025 the camp was held in Southland and saw 23 young people from around the country learn new skills, meet likeminded people and form friendships that will last a lifetime. Thanks must go to the members and businesses that support this camp every year. The success of the camp could be seen in action at the 2025 NZ Dairy Event Youth Show, where over 75% of the entrants had attended one or more youth camps in the past eleven years. This is an event that supports the future of the NZ dairy industry.

Judging is an important part of any Breed Society and Holstein Friesian NZ is no exception. Judges are monitored annually through Judging Schools held around the country. Each senior Holstein Friesian judge must attend a judging school every second year to maintain the standard. In 2025 four judging schools were run in the Waikato, Manawatu and Canterbury, with a combined breeds judging school held in Southland with Holstein Friesian, Jersey, and Ayrshire judges all in attendance.

The Holstein Friesian breed has a diversity of population both around the world and in New Zealand. This diversity offers something for all farming systems and makes Holstein Friesian the 'Breed of Choice' for many farmers. Holstein Friesian NZ will continue to advocate on behalf of all Holstein Friesian breeders to ensure the black and white cow is to the fore and continues to build on her many great attributes.

12.6 NZ Jersey Cattle Breeders – Pam Goodin (General Manager)

Jersey NZ continues to promote and drive the growth of the Jersey breed throughout New Zealand. Members enjoyed attending and exhibiting at shows again this season. In the 2024/25 show season the South Island Jersey Championships were presented as part of the Semex On Farm Challenge. The North Island Championship ribbons were hosted by the NZ Dairy Event, as always well supported by Jersey NZ members in late January 2025.

Jersey NZ youth members also took part in the Murray Harnett Youth Judging Challenge at the NZ Dairy Event. The first two placegetters represented Jersey NZ in the NZ Dairy Breeds Federation organised Worldwide Sires All Breeds Young Judge Competition. The Marcus Trotter Trophy and the Holley Geck Memorial Cup are both centred on youth showing over multiple shows.

Three joint breed Judging Certification days took place in February – Taranaki and Waikato in conjunction with Ayrshire New Zealand and Southland in conjunction with Holstein Friesian New Zealand.

Our flagship competition the Semex Jersey On Farm Challenge once again saw record entries.

12.7 NZ Milking Shorthorn Association – Cherilyn Watson (General Manager)

The NZ Milking Shorthorn cow has been well represented at shows around the country in the 2024/25 season.

The North Island Championship were held at the Stratford A & P Show in November 2024, with Champion Cow being awarded to Oliver Woods J Cari exhibited by R & J Soffe, Taranaki. The Reserve Championship went to Aywon Sunstorm Tessa, exhibited by N Dibble from the Waikato.

Wyndam A & P Show hosted the South Island Championships, with Lowburn Jedi Jax, taking out the Champion Cow title and the Reserve Championship went to Lowburn Supreme Sprinkles, both exhibited by the Simmons Family from Invercargill.

Judges for the Milking Shorthorn breed are certified through attendance at other NZ dairy cattle breed society judging schools. Existing judges are encouraged to regularly attend these judging schools, alongside any new judges interested in certifying.

Recently the NZ Milking Shorthorn Association moved their administrative services from Jersey NZ to Holstein Friesian NZ. The Board looks forward to this new partnership and seeing where it can take the breed in the future.

12.8 Purebred Jersey Breed Society – Sue Schnuriger (Secretary)

The 2024 AGM and Conference of the Society was held in Levin hosted by the Bryan and Shirley Phillips and Ron and Jenny Horn. Nathan Guy who farms locally and was a National Party MP spoke and opened the Conference. Members had a herd walk at the Shirlett Stud of Bryan and Shirley Phillips and then had a very interesting tour of the Windmill and Flax Museum at Foxton before all heading back home again.

Classification was carried out over the whole country with the numbers being down slightly.

The Taranaki Club held their annual On Farm Show with the Presentation Day the following day, they also hold Production Awards.

Garry Colquhoun has been the editor of our journal since 2011, sadly he has decided to retire, his expertise and knowledge has been truly appreciated and he will be greatly missed.

Our members represented our Society well at the A & P Shows particularly at the Horowhenua Royal A&P Show and the Stratford Show which was a huge success, congratulations to everyone involved.

The 2025 AGM, on the 3th June, is in Pukekohe and hosted by our local members in the area. We are very aware that our numbers of members is declining. A discussion around this and what our future looks like will be had at the AGM.

12.9 South Island Dairy Heifer Competition – not held in 2024.2025 show season.

12.10 Dairy Cattle Ethics Committee – Levies collected as at 10 July 2025

NORTHERN		2023/2024	2024/2025	CENTRAL		2023/2024	2024/2025
Auckland				Amberley			
Bay of Islands				Amuri		\$80	
Clevedon				Ashburton			
Franklin				Banks Peninsula			
Helensville		\$115	\$80	Buller			
Kaikohe				Canterbury		\$205	\$170
Kaitaia			\$35	Cheviot			
Kumeu				Duvauchelle			
Nth Hokianga				Ellesmere		\$15	
North Kaipara				Flaxbourne			
North Wairoa		\$95	\$95	Golden Bay		\$50	
Whangarei		\$85	\$45	Hawarden			
				Inangahua			
MID-NORTHERN		2023/2024	2023/2024	Kaikoura			
Cambridge				Mackenzie Highland			
Katikati				Malvern			
Matamata			\$40	Marlborough		\$140	\$10
Morrinsville		\$155	\$191	Mayfield			
Rotorua		\$70	\$70	Methven			
Tauranga				Motueka			
Te Aroha		\$95		Murchison		\$175	\$120
Te Kauwhata		\$105	\$65	Nelson			
Te Puke		\$50	\$95	Northern (Rangiora)		\$15	No Show
Waihi		\$25	\$80	Oxford		\$145	\$90
Waikato		\$410	\$380	Rai Valley			
				Sth Canty Show			
				South Westland			
				Temuka-Geraldine			
				Westland (Hokitika)		\$80	No section
EASTERN		2023/2024	2024/2025				
Ctl.Hawkes Bay							
Dannevirke							
Hawkes Bay							
Masterton							
Poverty Bay							
Wairarapa							
Wairoa							
WESTERN		2023/2024	2024/2025	SOUTHERN		2023/2024	2024/2025
Egmont				Central Otago			\$5
Feilding				Gore			\$140
Horowhenua		\$130	\$120	Lake County			
Manawatu		\$545	\$820	Maniototo			
Stratford		\$420	\$420	Mt Benger			
Waimarino				North Otago		\$10	\$30
Wanganui				Otago Taieri		\$5	\$125
Waverley				Palmerston/Waihemo			\$10
				South Otago		\$25	\$25
				Southland		\$290	
				Strath Taieri			
				Tokomairiro			
				Upper Clutha			
				Waiau			
				West Otago			
				Winton		\$65	\$60
				Wyndham			

17. REPORTS – SHEEP

17.1 Sheep Breeds Chairperson – Ian Stevenson

Sheep and sheep meat values have shown large increases since the start of 2025. However, a turnaround was well overdue for sheep farming to return to a profitable business model. Due to a few reasons but principally the blanket planting of pine trees on farmland that was previously sheep and

beef country sheep numbers have shown a large drop. Unfortunately, the flow on effect of this is that we now have a meat processing industry with huge over capacity and adjusting to the new numbers will be costly and painful.

Sheep sections at A & P shows have again been well supported by breeders in areas with keen exhibitors who continue to support their local shows. The Sheep Royal Event hosted by the Hawarden A & P in March had large entries which were of very high quality. With Stratford and Canterbury both hosting Royal A&P Shows this November we look forward to both these events being well supported with large entries.

The 2025 Golden Fleece Exhibition was hosted by Mackenzie A & P in April. A successful event with an increase in entries on the previous year. The Champion Fine Wool Fleece was exhibited by JW and C McKenzie from Burnham with the Strong Wool winner from Wilden Park in Central Otago. The Black and Coloured Champion was awarded to a fleece exhibited by Rachael Humphrey from Feilding.

It is good to see that the ewe hogget and two tooth commercial flock competitions which are held in some strong sheep areas in the country are enjoying strong support with increasing entries and interest from the next generation of sheep farmers. These events in North Canterbury are highly competitive and draw a large crowd of followers.

17.2 Black & Coloured Sheep Association – Philippa Sanders (Delegate)

The Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders Association has had another good year.

Our Membership remains steady with quite a few new members joining the Association within the last twelve months.

Sheep numbers at some shows has been very good, others disappointing especially when there are members in the Show area.

Last November the Association hosted The World Congress of Coloured Sheep with participants coming from Australia, England, United States as well as some New Zealanders attending. This was held at the time of the Canterbury A&P Show so people had the chance to see the New Zealand sheep as well as some very good guest speakers over the three days. A very successful Bus Trip followed the following week into Central Otago and visiting White Flocks as well as Black and Coloured Flocks and the scenery did not let them down.

A few new members now at the helm and we wish them well.

Thank you to the RAS for their support over the year

17.3 Cheviot Sheep Society – No report received.

17.4 NZ Sheep Breeders Assn – No report received

17.5 NZ Southdown Sheep Soc - No report received

17.6 Perendale Sheep Society NZ – Russell Proffit (President)

Welcome to my second presidents report.

2024-2025 has seen a change in fortune in the Sheep farming sector of NZ with interest rates dropping. Product prices increase to some of the highest levels seen, even wool making slightly better returns. Most areas have had better weather wise, with a couple of areas in the North Island having been the exception. But as we know in the sheep breeding world its bloody hard to breed a perfect sheep, like the weather and product prices it's very hard to get them all lined up at the same time.

The year started with a memorable trip around Ward 6 with the weather adding a bit of spice to it but some great sheep, great people, and great memories which are some of the most important things to celebrate as a breed Society. The ward tour was topped off by some very special awards and acknowledgements for the breed with Warren Ayes receiving the Struan Trophy for his tireless hours he continues with promoting the breed and time on council, and a very special Life Membership award presented to Diana Timms. Diana, alongside Gilbert and their family, spend countless hours/days showing sheep, working at shows and passing on their passion & knowledge for sheep breeding to the next generation.

West Otago hosted the Golden Sash this year with a cracking line-up of 18 rams, with the following taking home the spoils: 1st – Mike McElrea; 2nd – Dave McKelvie; 3rd – Scott Walker; 4th – Peter Christie; 5th – John Jebson; 6th – Mike McElrea. Also, the Best Wool Sheep of the Show went to Mike

McElrea. Thank you to Annabel Tripp and Howie Gardner adjudicators of the class. Thank you also to Zoetis for their sponsorship.

The Proffit Family received the top Price Ram of \$18,000 sold in the North Island at their annual on farm sale in November. The Tripp family received \$19,000 for a Ram at the Gore Ram Fair which was another very successful sale for the breed – the sale average being \$3562, up by \$101 on the previous year's sale.

It's great to see strong demand still for the breed with a very competitive marketplace with land use change and plenty of breed choice for commercial farmers to choose from.

We as a breed need to make sure we keep our breed in the forefront of the industry with quality promotion and like Sir Geoffrey Peren and his band of followers, make sure we are breeding a sheep to take NZ Sheep farming into the future

I have been working closely with BLGNZ to keep Perendale at the forefront of their minds and trying to make sure they remember that breed societies exist and work well to improve the sheep farming in NZ.

As a council we have had to update our constitution for the upcoming changes to the 2022 Act - this will be tabled and voted on at the upcoming AGM. Please read it and advise asap if you see any major concerns.

We as members, need to keep advertising/telling our story about our wonderful breed we have. We have been using some different medias over the last few years, and we need to make sure that the cost benefit is correct as we need to keep our cost in mind. We have found Facebook to be one of the cheapest media, but this works best if we all share or like Perendale stories photos videos.

Lastly a special thanks to Christine who is always on the phone or email to get hold of and keeps everyone on their toes. You do such a wonderful job - keep up the great work. To all our Council - thanks for your

support, and let's make sure we keep our great breed moving forward.

Thank you to my Council and especially to retiring Councillor Warren Ayers, who is standing down after 13 years. *'keep living the dream'*

19. COMPETITIONS

19.2 2023 National Golden Fleece Exhibition – Melissa Jebson (Working Group Chair)

The 2024 Golden Fleece Exhibition was held at the Rangiora Showgrounds on Friday 5th April 2024. It was well attended by locals, growers plus a spinning and weaving group. Special thanks to the sponsors, who without their support would not make this annual event such a success. PGG Wrightson, Yaldhurst Wools, Perendale Sheep NZ, Black & Coloured Sheep Association of New Zealand, Northern A&P Assn, Mulcahy Wool Merchants Ltd, Phillipa Sanders, Nigel Wood, Corriedale Sheep Society, Duncraig, Black & Coloured Sheep Society, Ewenedus, Thank you to our exhibitors throughout New Zealand for your continued support in entering this premium exhibition and congratulations on the high standard of your entries.

The Supreme Fleece Winners for 2024 were:

- Fine Fleece - Martin Murray
- Strong Fleece - Rachel Humphrey
- Black & Coloured Fleece - Phillipa Sanders
- Alpaca: Huacaya - Shamarra Maradonna (F & A Walkington)
Suri - Alpaca Xperience Intrigue (M & T Jackson)
- Mohair - Joseph Burston

Thank you to the judges – Roger Fuller (Fine Wool), Peter McCusker (Strong Wool), Sandra Harnett (Black & Coloured), Molly Gardner (Alpaca) and William Heap (Mohair). Thank you also to PGG Wrightson who received the fleeces, plus the Northern A&P Association for providing the venue. Special thanks to the District volunteers who helped the working Group organise and run this event. This includes the Rangiora High School students who helped through the set-up, the judging and at the exhibition.

My thanks to Christine Roberts (RAS Executive Officer) for the huge role you play in getting this event off the ground, plus also to the Golden Fleece Working Group who preside over the organisation of this exhibition.

23. REPORTS – OTHER BREEDS

23.1 Alpaca Association of NZ – No report received.

23.2 Mohair NZ - No report received

23.3 NZ Boer Goat – John Binney (President)

Welcome to all our Association members and particularly our new breeders attending their first NZBGBA AGM. Starting on a positive note, it is encouraging that we have had a small increase in member numbers this year. On the flip side, the past year has had a number of challenges. Several of our breeders support the major South Island A&P shows at Wanaka and Christchurch. This helps maintain the public profile of the breed, provides an opportunity for networking with other breeders and encourages development of breed standards through interaction with local and international judges. Unfortunately, the Christchurch show went through a period of turmoil in 2024. The final decision by the Canterbury A&P Association to present a show in 2024 including livestock was made so late that the NZBGBA Executive decided we were not able to exhibit stock without major compromises in terms of stock numbers, quality and breeder availability. On the positive side, the show will be run in 2025 and it has regained its status as 'Royal A&P Show of New Zealand'. The NZBGBA will support the Show this year with an International judge. I therefore encourage members to come along either with stock or just to network with other members of our Association. The 2025 Wanaka A&P Show was held on 7 and 8 March with NZBGBA represented by three breeders and 24 goats. Unfortunately, a stalwart of the show Wynn Cruickshank, was bedridden and this impacted stock numbers. Supreme Champion went to Christine Lear's beautifully presented 2023 doe Tinkerbell. The judge was Geoff Mitchell from Coomboona Boer Stud in Australia. Geoff spent considerable time talking to breeders about their animals and the direction the breed is heading in Australia. With more than 40,000 people attending this show it certainly helps raise the public profile of Boer goats. Two major areas of focus for the Executive over the past 12 months have been facilitation of export contracts and the preparation of a new Constitution with the affiliated Association Rules. Unfortunately, the possible export contracts to South Korea did not eventuate. There are currently issues with timing of Korea's tender documents coming to market that make it very difficult to have stock away before the Korean summer. An additional hurdle has been the lack of the appropriate direct Air New Zealand flights which have been cancelled because their engine issues. We will continue to work with the NZ exporters to address both logistics and timing as we see Korea as a long term, high value market for our stock. The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 that came in to force on 5 October 2023 requires all Incorporated Societies to registered or be reregistered with a Constitution that complies with the Act. This must be completed by 5 April 2026. A new Constitution and set of Rules has been prepared and circulated to members prior to this AGM for ratification at the AGM. I would like to note my thanks to Marita for carrying much of the burden in preparing these documents. Looking forward to the year ahead I will encourage the Executive to focus our efforts in three main areas. Firstly, growing our membership. As with many other Associations in the farming sector we battle to bring in new and importantly younger members who will ensure the longevity and improved standards of the Boer Goat breed in New Zealand. The increase in the living standards in many goat meat consuming countries should provide an ongoing market for high quality NZ Boer Goat genetics to the long term benefit of all our members. Secondly, a major role of our Association is maintenance of the NZ Boer Goat register. At present our register is significantly out of date. We will work with Genetic Gains who maintain the register to get all our members to update their herd details. When you get your kidding list from Genetic Gains you will also receive a full list of the animals recorded as currently held within your herd. Please take the time to update the list and return it with your 2025 kidding details. Without this knowledge of the accurate status of the NZ Boer Goat herd it is very difficult to have meaningful discussions with potential exporters. Thirdly we will encourage showing of animals at A&P shows. This is our window to the NZ farming community and helps address a deep seated resistance to using goats as part of a versatile farming strategy. It is also a great way to link with other breeders and discuss the ups and downs of running a Boer Goat herd. It may seem a little daunting to show your animals for the first time but we have a friendly and helpful group of fellow exhibitors who will help you on this journey. Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Executive for their sterling work and I look forward to welcoming a growing membership through the coming year.

23.4 NZ Dairy Goat Breeders Association – No report received.

- 23.5 Llama Association** - No report received.
- 23.6 NZ Pig Association** – No report received.
- 23.7 NZ Sheep Dog Trials** – No report received.
- 23.8 Premier Dairy Goats** – No report received.
- 23.9 Rare Breeds Association** – No report received.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY of NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



Sunday 29 June 2025, 11am, Hotel Elms, Christchurch.

ATTENDANCE:

Executive: Rachel Walker (President/Otago-Taieri), Ben Burgess (Vice-President / UBS Chair), Hamish Grigg (Treasurer), Sophie Holst (Helensville), Sophie Kirk (Executive/2025 Rural Ambassador), Anne Rogers. Christine Roberts (Operations Manager), Jill Timms (Admin/Horowhenua).

United Breeds Society (UBS) Council Executive: Kelly Allison (Dairy Cattle Breeds Chair/Ayrshire), Ian Stevenson (Sheep Breeds Chair).

Committees: Melissa Jebson (Hon.Life Member/Judges Convenor/Malvern), Maxine Mulligan (Hon.Life Member/Rural Ambassador Judge/Clean Sport Convenor),

Members: Sarah Carter-Hall (Golden Horse), Lorraine Gardner (Cheviot/Gypsy Cob), Steph Gowing (Whangarei), Elizabeth Graham (SD Rural Ambassador), Merran Hain (Poverty Bay), Rob Hall (SD Chair), Annabelle Hampton (Mackenzie), Kelly Hanna (Cheviot), Richard Holst (Franklin), Nicky Hutchinson (Hon.Life Member, Banks Peninsula, Duvauchelle), Vicki Jagersma (Stratford), John Jebson (CD Chair), Alice Jones (Oxford/Rural Ambassador Judge), Duncan McArthur (CD Council/Temuka Geraldine), Bruce McRobbie (MND Chair/Morrinsville), Jazmine Murray (ND Rural Ambassador), Phillipa Sanders (CD Councillor/Blk & Col. Sheep), Sindy Shanks (Central Otago), Jane Stalker (Upper Clutha), Ruth Stiven (SD Manager/West Otago), Leigh Taylor (MND Manager/Donkey&Mule/Side Saddle/Te Kauwhata), Sue Thomas (Hawkes Bay), Chantelle Thurlow (Gore), Diana Timms (Hon.Life Member/Cheviot Sheep), Gilbert Timms (Hon.Life Member/Perendale Sheep), Paul Vanner (Stratford), Jaime Winter (Clydesdale), Bernadette Woffeden (Shetland Pony Breeders), Kay Worthington (Lowlines).

1	Welcome	Discussion - Action
	Rachel Walker – RAS President	Warm welcome was extended by the President to meeting attendees.

2	Chair of Meeting	Discussion - Action
	Rachel Walker	The Chair opened the 2025 Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand Annual General Meeting.

3	Apologies	Discussion - Action
3.1	Shona Addison (Helensville), Louise Bradley (Murchison), Mark Fleming (UBS Beef Cattle Chair), Fe Howie (Upper Clutha), Pip Ivey (Methven A&P Assn), Michelle Mair (Pony Breeders), Malcom McKerrow (Hon.Life Member), Palmerston-Waihemo A&P Assn, Jon-Brian Parker (Waihi), Marilyn Parker (Waihi), Annette Robinson (Nelson), Kristine Russell (SD Judge's Convenor), Taranaki Horse & Pony All Breeds, Alan Windle (WD Judge's Convenor).	
		Decision: THAT the apologies as noted in 3.1 be received.
		Moved: R Walker CARRIED

4	Obituaries	Discussion - Action
4.1		The meeting stood for a moment's silence as a mark of respect of members who had passed away during the year, noting the following:

	4.1.1 Northern District	
	4.1.2 Mid Northern District	Beth Knight, Walker Scott.
	4.1.3 Eastern District	
	4.1.4 Western District	
	4.1.4 Central District	Dawn Gresham (Tutor Judge), Philip Worthington (Councilor / Lowline Rep.).
	4.1.5 Southern District	Michael Robertson (West Otago).

5	Conflict of Interest	Discussion - Action
		No conflict of interest declared.

6	Standard follow up items	Discussion - Action
6.1	Confirmation of 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes	<p>Decision: THAT the Minutes of 9 June 2024 Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand Annual General Meeting as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.</p> <p>Moved: M Jebson Seconded: Ben Burgess CARRIED</p>
6.2	Matters arising from Minutes (not on Agenda)	No matters arising.
6.3	General Business added to the Agenda (if time permits)	None received from the floor.

7	Reports	Discussion - Action
7.1	Presidents Annual Report	<p>President's 2024.2025 Annual Report was circulated and tabled - pages 54-56.</p> <p>Decision: THAT the President's 2024.2025 Annual report, as tabled be received and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: R Walker Seconded: R Hall CARRIED</p>
7.2	Financial	<p>Performance and Financial Report for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 was circulated and tabled – see link on page 56.</p> <p>Apology extended for the lateness of receiving the Report, but the Executive only received the report on Wednesday to approve. The Executive and Auditor signed it on Thursday and it was circulated to the members.</p> <p>The Report shows a good and consistence result – main increase figures were donations and investments. There was a slight decrease in equestrian revenue, and we only have one fulltime and one part-time contractors.</p> <p>Decision: THAT the 2024.2025 Annual Performance and Financial Report as tabled be received and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: H Grigg Seconded: D McArthur CARRIED</p>

7.3	Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting – Leigh Taylor	<p>If there is no Supreme within a Breed/Kindred section at a RAS affiliated show/event then that section is not eligible to enter any animal for the All Breeds Supreme exhibit.</p> <p>Decision: THAT the verbal report by the Chair from the Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting be received.</p>
		Moved: L Taylor Seconded: H Grigg CARRIED
7.4	Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting – Helena McLeod-Nevin	<p>Aware of the financial impact of Remit #13 in Northern District Remit #8 – reduced time from 6mths to 6 weeks that judges can adjudicate at shows, after coaching them or other involvement with competitors.</p> <p>More communication is asked for between HSCEX and District Equestrian Chairs or District Chair.</p> <p>Decision: THAT the verbal report by the Chair from the Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting be received.</p>
		Moved: H McLeod-Nevin Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED
7.5	United Breeds Society (UBS) Annual General Meeting – Ben Burgess	<p>Good Meeting, a broad discussion on having two Royal Shows in the same season.</p> <p>Decision: THAT the verbal report by the Chair from the United Breed Annual General Meeting be received.</p>
		Moved: B Burgess Seconded: J Winter CARRIED
7.6	Districts Chairpersons Reports	<p>As tabled and circulated – see pages 56-61.</p> <p>Decision: THAT all District Chairpersons reports as tabled, be received.</p>
		Moved: R Hall Seconded: V Jagersma CARRIED
7.7	Royal Shows	<p>Host Associations PowerPoint Presentations given at Conference the previous day by Canterbury (Peter Engel GM and Brent Chamberlain, President) and Stratford (Paul Vanner, President).</p>

8	Finance	Discussion - Action
8.1	Annual Membership Levy Review	<p>No increase in the Annual Membership Levy was tabled by the Executive.</p> <p>Decision: THAT the meeting accepts that there is to be no increase in the Annual Membership Levy for 2025.2026.</p>
		Moved: B McRobbie Seconded: R Stiven CARRIED
8.2	Equestrian and Dairy Cattle Levies	<p>Decision: THAT the meeting accepts that there is to be no increase in Equestrian and Dairy Cattle levies for 2025.2026.</p>
		Moved: J Winter Seconded: D McArthur CARRIED

8.3	Appointment of Auditor	Decision: THAT Ashton Wheelans Ltd be appointed as the Society's Auditors for the 2025.2026 financial year.
		Moved: B Burgess Seconded: S Kirk CARRIED

9	Remits, Motions, Business or Proposed Resolutions	Discussion - Action
9.1	Remits Results – #1 to #18	Results of Equestrian Remits were announced - all voting forms were counted by a Justice of the Peace.
	1. CDE: Colour of Horse/Pony on Certificate	29 FOR / 36 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	2. CDE: Consistency of Rules – Measuring of foals	57 FOR / 8 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	3. CDE: Judging Percentages	14 FOR / 52 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	4. CDE: Overseas Rider Performances	55 FOR / 10 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	5. Clean Sport – PR banned from Shows.	51 FOR / 14 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	6. EEFSL: Compulsory Horse/Pony Registration	6 FOR / 59 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	7. EEFSL: Compulsory Membership	6 FOR / 59 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	8. EEFSL: + J + ER: Judges Adjudicating Breed sections	36 FOR / 29 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	9. General: Rider Fall – New rule	55 FOR / 11 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	10. Measuring – Current Measure on Database	5 FOR / 61 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	11. Measuring: Life Measures	22 FOR / 44 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	12. Measuring: Stands Calibration	32 FOR / 33 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - FAILED AI Overview - <i>“In New Zealand, measuring stands should generally be calibrated annually, especially if used for critical measurements or part of a quality assurance program.”</i> AIMS Industrial Services - <i>“As a minimum, Go Calibration recommends calibrating your instruments at least once a year to ensure accuracy and provide quantitative data to ensure you can provide quality assurance for your customers.”</i>
	13. Measuring: Youngstock Measures over 148cm	54 FOR / 12 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	14. Measuring: Youngstock Measuring, Stand Days	19 FOR / 47 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	15. MSS: First Ridden Championship	18 FOR / 48 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED

	16. MSS: Horse Divisions, Determined as over 148cm.	15 FOR / 51 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	17. MSS: Rising Star to Replace Novice	5 FOR / 59 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	18. MSS+ Lead Rein Age Increased, First Ridden Section deleted	19 FOR / 45 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - FAILED
		Reminder – early engagement of draft remits around the Districts would be recommended to allow their refinement before being finally submitted. Once a remit has been submitted it can only be voted as is and yet with slight changes or socialisation, a different result may have been possible.
9.2	In-Line Resolution Process Policy	Reminder that the Policy is available to download along with the Yellow and Red Cards on the 'Members Only' page of the website. This Policy can be implemented at any meetings or shows. Note: Two Red Cards were given out in 2025.
9.3	Recommendations from	
	9.3.1 Equestrian Breeds AGM	RAS to advise member shows that: If there is no Supreme within a Breed/Kindred section at a RAS affiliated show/event then that section champion(s) is not eligible to enter any animal for the All Breeds Supreme exhibit.
	9.3.2 Equestrian (Main) AGM	More communication asked for between HSCEX and District Equestrian Chairs or District Chair.
	9.3.3 United Breeds Society AGM	None tabled.

10	General Business	Discussion - Action
10.1	Honorary Life Memberships	No nominations tabled.

11	Election of Officers	Discussion - Action
11.1	Patron	Right Honourable Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro. Current Patron – whilst in her term as Governor General.
11.2	Executive	
	11.2.1 President	Ms Rachel Walker – current term ends One nomination received - Mr Ben Burgess. Nominator One: Whangarei A&P Society (Evan Smeath- Pres.) Nominator Two: Rachel Walker (RAS President). Action: Due to the one nomination received did not exceed the vacancy number: Mr Ben Burgess was ratified as duly ELECTED.
		Moved: Rachel Walker Seconded: M Mulligan CARRIED
	11.2.1 Vice President	Mr Ben Burgess – current co-opted term ends. No nominations were received. Executive will follow the Constitution in co-opting a Vice President for a term of one year.

	11.2.2 Executive Member – 2 positions	<p>Mrs Sophie Kirk put her name forward for election. Nominator One: Manawatu A&P Assn (Brad Powell-President) Nominator Two: Sophie Holst (Executive Member).</p> <p>Action: Due to the nomination received did not exceed the number of vacancies: Mrs Sophie Kirk was ratified and duly ELECTED.</p>
		Moved: R Walker Seconded: K Worthington CARRIED
11.3	Horse Steward's Council Executive	
	11.3.1 Chairperson	<p>Ms Helena McLeod-Nevin – current term ends Two nominations received. Voting closed on 15 June 2025 Ms Helena McLeod Nevin – 12 votes Mr Alan Windle – 36 votes</p> <p>Action: Due to Mr Alan Windle receiving the majority of the votes, he was ratified and duly ELECTED.</p>
		Moved: L Taylor Seconded: M Mulligan CARRIED
	11.3.2 National Clean Sport Convenor	<p>Mrs Maxine Mulligan – current term ends One Nomination Received – Mrs Maxine Mulligan</p> <p>Action: Due to the nomination received did not exceed the number of vacancies: Mrs Maxine Mulligan was ratified and duly ELECTED.</p>
		Moved: S Thomas Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED
	11.3.3 National Judges Convenor	<p>Mrs Melissa Jebson – current term ends One Nomination Received – Mrs Melissa Jebson</p> <p>Action: Due to the nomination received did not exceed the number of vacancies: Mrs Melissa Jebson was ratified and duly ELECTED.</p>
		Moved: B Chamberlain Seconded: P Sanders CARRIED

12	Close	Discussion - Action
		<p>The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance at the 2025 Conference, including executive, staff, current role holders and members. She expressed her being very proud of the organisation and looked forward to the path that the new Executive will lead you down.</p> <p>Ben Burgess incoming President thanked Rachel for her support, guidance and with moving the organisation forward. A presentation was awarded to Ms Walker in recognition of her contribution.</p>
		Meeting was declared closed at 11.28am.

7. REPORTS

7.1 President – Rachel Walker

Well that's our Centenary done and dusted and what a great celebration that was! It was fantastic to see how much people appreciated receiving the special Centenary Medals and we had an incredible celebration conference. We also now have a wonderful historical resource in the form of the Centenary booklet, which is available for downloading on the Members only page of the website.

A lot has happened in the last year, and the RAS Executive are pleased to report on the following.

Thank you

Firstly, a huge thank you to all of you, for what you do for our members, competitors / exhibitors, and as officials. Thanks to those who undertake roles for their local A&P, including Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Committee members, Convenors, Clean Sport and Measuring Stewards. Thanks to our Equestrian Judges, show officials and those in district roles (including District Chairs, Managers, Councillors and Equestrian Judge Convenors). Thanks also to those in national roles (including the United Breeds Societies Executive, Horse Stewards Council Executive, the Equestrian Rulebook Review Working Group, Golden Fleece Committee, and the Land Rover Horse of the Year Committee).

Thank you to all of you for your voluntary hours, support and passion for showcasing rural excellence in New Zealand.

I would also like to thank the Executive:

- Hamish Grigg (co-opted last year and now a full Executive member and our Treasurer);
- Sophie Holst (the Rural Ambassador winner in 2023 and now a full Executive member, who has taken control of finding and valuing our trophies as asked by the auditor last year);
- Sophie Kirk (co-opted and the author of the Executive Updates);
- Our 2024 Rural Ambassador Caitlin Rhodes, who has been deeply proactive in promoting the programme and advancing the showing movement;
- Anne Rogers, a tour de force who among other things has drawn together guidance for applying for grants; and
- Ben Burgess, our Vice President and UBS Chair.

This year has seen the youngest ever Executive group, with five of the seven members having come through the Rural Ambassador programme in the last few years.

I also need to thank our amazing staff – not only Christine Roberts our incredible Operations Manager but newcomer Jill Timms. Jill has been learning fast including on the often-tricky equestrian rules. However, the biggest thank you as always must go to our outstanding Operations Manager, Christine Roberts. She goes above and beyond at all times and we'd be lost without her. Her unwavering dedication to the showing movement and her integrity and professionalism are without parallel. "Thank you" doesn't seem enough.

Royal A&P Show and Royal Events

There have been many things to celebrate in the last year, however we have now achieved something new – having two Royal A&P Shows confirmed for the 2025/2026 season. In 2016 our members instructed the Executive to award the hosting to a Royal A&P Show to a show in each island every season. The upcoming season will be the first time this has been achieved. An enormous thank you to both the Stratford A&P Association and the Canterbury A&P Association for their passion and enthusiasm to host these events. We will hear about both events at the conference. What an incredible opportunity this provides for people to shine at both, a "double" that has never before been a possibility.

The 2024/2025 season saw seven Royal Events held at five member shows and we thank these members:

- West Otago A&P Society (23 November 2024) – Sheep
- Te Kauwhata A&P Association (14-15 December 2024) – Equestrian
- Temuka & Geraldine A&P Association (28 February – 1 March 2025) – Dairy Goat
- Hawarden A&P Association (15 March 2025) – Sheep and Wool
- Oxford A&P Association (29 March 2025) – Home Industries and Equestrian

There are already three Royal Events scheduled for the 2025/2026 season:

- Poverty Bay A&P Association (15-18 October 2025) - Equestrian and Dog Trials
- Marlborough A&P Association (7-8 November) – Home Industries
- Mayfield A&P Association (14 March) – Home Industries

Centenary celebrations

With 2024 our Centenary year, most of the 2024/2025 financial year covered our celebration period. One of the earliest events during this time was the Golden Fleece in April 2024, followed by our conference in June 2024 and the Centenary Medals awarded throughout the 2024 year. Thanks again must go to Maria Barta as the primary force behind the Centenary booklet, with support from Christine Roberts. Christine also pulled together the other elements of our celebration including the most amazing cake at conference!

Shows this season

This is the fourth year the Executive have contacted member A&P shows, either before or after their event, to understand what is important to our members and what is really happening across the country. A more complete picture will be shared at conference, but so far what we can tell you is:

- Trades have largely been up again, as they were last year
- Gate takings were variable but more up than down, again with some at record levels
- Sponsorship and grants have been hard to come by
- More shows reported equestrian numbers were down than reported they were up
- Home industry sections are continuing to strengthen around the country.

There will be more analysis of the feedback we received, including the innovations people have implemented, at conference.

Annual Plan 24/25 performance

The Executive is delighted to advise members that the Annual Plan 24/25 items are either completed or substantially completed. Some highlights of the results (organised by the RAS Strategic Pillars) are that:

- **People and Volunteering**
 - Volunteer NZ events and links to their best practise guidelines or resources have appeared as a regular item in the Executive Update.
 - An acknowledgement programme has been rolled out.
 - Governance guidance (including on running meetings, templates for agendas and minutes) have been added to the RAS website.
- **A sustainable and relevant showing movement**
 - Beef Cattle seminars for current and new judges will be held as follows:
 - North Island 3 May 2025 in Wellsford There may be a second North Island seminar.
 - South Island – venue and date to be confirmed.
 - The process for becoming an Equestrian judge is being reviewed by the District Convenors.
 - The Rural Ambassador programme has been promoted via social media and a Zoom call for interested parties was held. We are looking to develop a consistent question set for the District judging to ensure it is an equitable process.
- **Support for our member organisations**
 - A Constitution template is available for A&P members to use but it is not suitable for Incorporated Societies. A separate one for them was not developed after asking those members for their interest and there being a lack of demand.
 - Guidance has been created for developing a “Business Sponsorship Prospectus” and template for a sponsorship. Please note that a letter of RAS affiliation can be requested from Head Office for applications where needed.
 - District AGMs were advised that if they provided a Budget for their 2024.2025 financial year, their rebate would increase from 20% to 25%. Five out of the six Districts returned a budget, therefore received the higher rebate, which they received on 20 March 2025.
 - Jill Timms was appointed as the RAS Administrator to support our Operations Manager and ensure sufficient staff resource to meet member needs.

- **Telling our stories**

- As mentioned, the Golden Fleece and conference were held. Thank you to all those who supported both events and the volunteers for their time and work ensuring they were both a success.
- The Conference Booklet provided to conference delegates is available on the members only website page.
- Centenary Medal distribution resulted in a lot of untold stories appearing in various media.
- Royal Events were held as already noted.
- The 2025 Conference will build on the success and learnings of 2024, with the planned return of a keynote speaker for a workshop and guidance on governance included. There will be presentations on the Royal A&P Shows.

A last note

This is the final year of my term as National President and therefore my final report to the RAS AGM. I have already noted my thanks and appreciation to you all but reiterate it here.

Thank you. To all of you for your involvement and passion for the A&P movement in New Zealand. And thank you for the support you have shown me personally and the honour of being the National President of the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand. I look forward to farewelling you properly at our Conference in Christchurch.

Please remember that the RAS Head Office and / or Executive Members are only an email or phone call away for any queries, concerns, or advice. We are all looking forward to seeing you at the shows next season.

Tēnā koutou katoa

7.2 Performance/Financial Report – <https://www.ras.org.nz/about/our-conference/>

7.5 Districts

7.5.1 Northern District – Chris Mason (Chairperson)

This season saw a fantastic turnout across our Northern District shows, with the beautiful weather contributing to good attendance. While some events experienced particularly hot and sunny conditions, leading to larger crowds earlier in the day and quieter afternoons, the overall turnout was very positive. Trade and food vendors sites also enjoyed strong sales throughout the region.

The 100-year RAS celebrations were a great way to highlight the importance of A&P movement and the long-standing legacy of our agricultural shows. Additionally, we observed that shows with a specific theme seemed to engage attendees and trade sites particularly well. This could be an opportunity worth exploring further for the Northern District.

Clevedon – no report received

Bay of Islands - 2024 marked the 180th Show held at the Waimate North Showgrounds. The Mayor opened the event for us and the crowd started to file through the gates fairly early. Everyone was happy and relaxed and were enjoying the variety of trade stalls available. We had some new trades come along which is always good to see. Despite clashing with another large equestrian event, our numbers were up from 2023 with 88 horses entered. We had a great range of judges who received a lot of comments and compliments from the competitors and families. There were some new faces this year with some new competitors giving Showing a go and we had some competitors from as far away as Tauranga attend. Pet Lamb and Calf Club always do well but we had predicted some higher numbers and had extra judges come in for the day, and just as well because Calf Club numbers were also up from 2023. It was a lovely day out for the community and the Committee enjoyed the day too. That's not always possible for Committee members so we were pretty happy about that.

Whangarei - The 143rd Whangarei A&P Show at Barge Showgrounds on Saturday, 7th December 2024, attracted 10,000 visitors. Perfect sunny weather made it a great day for all. This year to celebrate the RAS's 100th Anniversary, the Show included royal-themed livestock competitions, crown-making workshops, and a fun hidden crown competition offering \$100 cash if you found the hidden crowns. A special highlight was the presentation of the RAS Centennial Medal to Evan Smeath for his outstanding dedication to the Whangarei A&P Society and his community contributions. The medal recognized Evan's tireless efforts as a member since 2001,

an Honorary Life Member since 2017, and as the current Society President. Whangarei Show also featured a great line-up of young judges (including RAS Executive members and Rural Ambassadors), steady livestock entries, increased equestrian entries due to the inclusion of more local classes and an increase in trade. A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers, exhibitors, judges, competitors, and the public for making the 2024 Show a vibrant community event.

Kaikohe- no report received

Paparoa - Wow everything came together beautifully for our 2025 show. The biggest factor for success- the weather, finally got it right and we had a perfect day. Lots of effort had gone into applying for funding so we could provide a lot of free games for kids and adults. There were plenty of stalls and lovely food. Indoor exhibits went well. Horse showing entries were down again this year so it is becoming a question whether to continue with them or not. The woodchoppers and shearers came and did their thing which is always popular for spectators. The fire party ran its wayjax competition again with a slippery slide at the end of the day for kids to enjoy. We had the numbers through the gates and actually made a profit this year which is essential if we are to continue running this event.

Arapohue - The weather was lovely, and we had a great attendance. Our Cattle numbers continue to go up but the goat numbers, which we've only just gone back to having the last couple of years, were down. Grace trialed a non-HOY qualifying show to try and encourage locals to participate but it didn't work, and she will go back to HOY qualifying. But overall it was an enjoyable day.

Broadwood - North Hokianga's 110th A&P Show held on Feb 15, 2025, was a great success, with gate takings the highest they have been. The weather was kind, with cooler temperatures making for a lovely day on the river-bounded grounds. Visitors and competitors alike enjoyed plenty of trade stalls, with a wide range of food available to tempt the tastebuds. The kids were well entertained with activities, and fun things to do. Good competition was seen in Dog Trials, Chopping and Shearing. Healthy entry numbers and enthusiasm in the indoor sections made for a busy day in the hall. Equestrian entries in Showing classes were down – as reflected in other Northland shows this season. However, the inclusion of Pony Club / Recreational equestrian classes on the Friday evening that don't require height certificates brought in lots of young local riders along with those from further afield. The higher demand for more accessible competition classes like these over the standard showing classes could prove key in keeping future entry numbers at viable levels. The hard work of committee members, along with all the competitors, sponsors and spectators made for a great 2025 Show!

Franklin - The Roger Gill Agriculture Pukekohe show was held over a sunny weekend in February. There were a number of old favourites as well as new exhibitors and entertainment stands, as well as a petting zoo. Pumpkin the Water Buffalo was a huge hit! While competitor entry numbers were down due to competing equestrian events on the same weekend, and the Cattle sections were cancelled due to lack of entries, visitor numbers are on the increase every year. Positive and constructive feedback has been received on how we can continue to improve the Show and what it offers to the public and competitors.

Kaitaia – no report received

Helensville - The day dawned beautifully clear and we had an early crowd, which kept on coming until late in the afternoon. Visitor numbers were approx. 6550. Food trade sold out in December, with general trade selling out early January. We had a constant waiting list for trade, right up to the day before the Show. With our Dairy theme we saw more entrants in the Dairy Cattle (and beef) classes than normal and an excellent turnout of Dairy Goats. Congratulations to Linda Woods who took out the 2025 Best of Dairy Exhibit on the day. The Dairy theme included milking demos, butter churning, cheese tasting, a tanker onsite to explore and history of our Kaipara Dairy Company. Equestrian entries were brilliant in Minis and Led Ponies but poor in Pleasure, Pinto and Pony rings. Everything else was middling. Thank you to our wonderful judges from all round the country – we really appreciate your professionalism, time and energy. Indoor entries were up this year with an outstanding number of entries in knitting, baking and flowers. The hall was busy all day with visitors admiring everyone's work. Thank you to the many entrants that brought their pets, livestock, horses and entries and participated in our Helensville Show. As always, we couldn't do it without our loyal and generous sponsors, grants and members. Congratulations to the Committee for their vision and hard work and to our many exceptional volunteers.

Kumeu - We were extremely pleased with this years show. As usual we have an amazing team of volunteers that support and work hard with the setup, during the show days and the pack up afterwards. We all know that without these people the Show would not exist.

We had record numbers attending on the Sunday with good weather on both days. An increase in trade sites was pleasing to see with the economic climate at present.

A new event this year was Canopy Carnage – an arborist event with NZ and overseas climbers. A great new attraction to work alongside the animals, rides and trade sites.

District matters

A huge thank you to all Show Managers, Presidents, Committee members and Volunteers whose effort during the season helped us achieve the results above and keep the movement in good heart.

Thank you to fellow Councillor stepping down this year –Malcolm McKerrow – your support and work behind the scenes has been much appreciated and you will be missed!

This year we have had a District Manager in place in Rachael Lafon, now recently replaced by Ellie Ball of Whangarei A&P Society. We look forward to working together to see how we can create better channels of communication across the District and increase interest in our Shows throughout the region. Help us to make this happen – please respond to emails and requests from our District Manager in a timely manner.

Best wishes and every success for next Show season to all A&P Shows throughout New Zealand.

7.5.2 Mid-Northern District – Bruce McRobbie (Chairperson)

It is with pleasure that I present the 2024/25 chairman's annual report for the Mid-Northern district of the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand.

Before I summarise the showing season I would like to acknowledge that we lost 2 great supporters of the Mid-Northern District Ag Society - Walter Scott & Beth Knight.

This season the Te Aroha Hack & Hunters had a very successful show.

Matamata held a good show after the last 2 years were cancelled due to wet weather. There are concerns about their venue for next year.

Waikato had another good show. But there are concerns about the cost of their grounds for future years.

Te Aroha had another great show - very good entries in the dairy cattle section.

Waihi had their best gate sales in 50 years. Cattle entries were good but a few horse classes were lower than expected. They celebrated Marilyn Parker's 50 years as secretary.

Cambridge ran only an equestrian show this season. Their show date clashes with the Royal A&P Show hosted by Stratford next season so they are unsure about whether they will run the show.

Rotorua's date changed this season and the farmers market really helped bring the public to their event.

Te Kauwhata hosted a Royal Event in equestrian - attracting 274 horses. They also had good entries in the calf club section.

North Island Showing champs had a successful show also. The thoroughbred challenge was very successful - \$3500 in prize money was awarded.

Katikati celebrated their 100 year show - which had very good craft sites.

Te Puke had a record breaking show - their biggest in 119 years.

Tauranga were happy with their show - very small equestrian event but good craft sites.

Morrinsville had the biggest show with over 200 head of dairy cattle and over\$10,500 in prize money. 40 head of beef cattle and strong alpaca classes was a real positive. Good entries in all the equestrian sections and over 70 trade and craft sites. \$7000 was raised for child cancer from pig racing.

Overall public attendance was up at all shows. The thoroughbred sections drew large numbers of entries at all shows. Pony entries were down at most shows and dairy goats were struggling through the deregistration of the Nubian goats.

Finances have remained steady thanks to those that have given their time freely.

I would like to thank Katie Rousell for her great job as the Mid-Northern Rural Ambassador for the past season.

To Leigh - thank you for dedication being our district manager.

To all council members and show representatives I thank you for all your support.

7.5.3 Eastern District – Christine Rowe (Chairperson)

On behalf of Eastern District I was very honoured to attend the 100 year centenary of the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand in Christchurch.

I have attended many conferences over the years but this one was extra special. The Patron of the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand the Governor General of New Zealand Dame Cindy Kiro attended and after officially opening the conference made a point of meeting, speaking to and shaking hands with everyone in attendance during the morning tea break. What a highlight! Another highlight on the last day was to be presented as Eastern District Chairperson one of the 100 year centenary medals.

The District ran two very successful recycled ribbon days in September and October as fund raising events. A huge thanks is extended to the committee members who undertook the running of these two shows.

Due to their efforts the District is in probably the best financial position it has been for a number of years. The points competition that was introduced to run between the 8 District shows was unfortunately not as successful as hoped and proved to be quite difficult for the compiling of results. The other voted for set of awards were however well received and worth continuing with. It was pleasing to note that Wairoa A & P was able to continue with their show although in a reduced capacity after another 2 weather bombs in December and January. Well done Wairoa.

It is both exciting and a milestone for the District with the upcoming Poverty Bay A & P Society celebrating their 150 year anniversary. Also with the added running of an Equestrian and Dog Trials Royal event at their October show in 2025.

I would like to thank Maxine Mulligan for the time, commitment and dedication she has put into her role as the District Judges Convenor.

It is unfortunate that we have no representative in the 25/26 Eastern District Rural Ambassador award. How do we attract young people to participate in this award? It is of note that our last years Eastern Districts Rural Ambassador James Robbie has recently won the East Coast Young Farmer of the year award and will be competing in the NZ Young Farmer of the year finals in Invercargill. Best of luck to James from the District.

On closing I would like to thank Tina and Kerryn on their great job as our joint District Managers. Also thank you to all who have attended our zoom meetings during the year. Also special thanks to all our sponsors for the recycled ribbon days and the points prize.

7.5.4 Western District – Vicky Jagersma (Chairperson)

Well done member Shows, in bringing exciting and innovative new ideas to your Shows, that connect with your community and pull town and country folk together for the competitions and entertainment, which in turn supports the vision of the A&P movement 'where farming business and family fun meet'. Thank you to the teams of dedicated volunteers for the huge effort to bring your community these A&P Shows.

Connection at Western District meetings is a great way to discuss the movement and support each other it would be good to have representation from each Show at these meetings. We need to consider where or how to connect to be effective. The financial position is stable.

Many thanks to Mary Davis, the district secretary, and the equine sector convenors for the wealth of knowledge, which is truly valuable to this group, Thank you.

I wish you all the very best for the coming 2025/2026 show season, Congrats to Stratford for being awarded to host the Royal A&P Show in the North Island in November.

7.5.5 Central District – John Jebson (Chairperson)

As I am writing this report, the 2024 – 2025 Show season is almost done and dusted, with only the Mackenzie Show at Easter to be held. We have had a busy and successful show season overall with the weather on most occasions playing ball, with only the Northern A&P Show losing their Show Day to rain. Good crowds seem to have been the norm this year. Nice days have helped, and I think as a result of what happened during the Covid lockdowns, people are getting out and about and enjoying local activities more. They realise that once you lose them, they are gone and won't come back. I think communities are closer now and stronger than what they were.

On a sad note, we lost a strong advocate of our Showing movement with the passing of Philip Worthington last year. His input, considered actions, thoughts and advice will be sorely missed around our Council table.

It has been a busy year for Central District Councillors which started with helping run the RAS Centennial Conference in June at the Quality Elms Hotel in Papanui, Christchurch. It was a very successful event with dynamic guest speakers, a visit from our Patroness the Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, the Governor General of New Zealand plus productive discussions and networking with like-minded people. It was a time to celebrate 100 years of our Agricultural and Pastoral Showing movement celebrating rural excellence. The conference also provided our District with another winner in the RAS Rural Ambassador competition. Congratulations to Caitlyn Rhodes, a member of the Northern A&P Association who is a young person going places in our movement. She was a very worthy winner amongst a very worthy group

of candidates from around New Zealand. Caitlyn has since been co-opted for a year onto both the CD Council plus the RAS Executive. It is great to have you on board Caitlin. Also at National Conference, Melissa Jebson was recognised for her long service within the RAS and awarded Honorary Life Membership of our organisation. Melissa has had many roles which include National Judges Convenor in the Equestrian sector, serving time on the RAS Executive, being a CD Councillor for many years, Chair of the Golden Fleece Working Group, just to name a few. This makes Melissa the third member from the Malvern A&P Association to receive this honour. Well done, Melissa.

Successes Show wise.

Temuka-Geraldine A&P marked their 150th year in March with a two-day Show. They also held a Royal Event in the Goat section which I believe was a successful event. Hawarden A&P held a Royal Event in March following a couple of years in recess, in the Sheep and Wool sections. They had over 350 single entries in the purebred sheep and 70 gift lambs, giving a total of 420 sheep on the grounds on Show Day. Who said sheep are dead and buried? They also totalled about 50 wool entries. Oxford A&P also held a Royal Event at their Show this year in both the Equestrian and Home Industry sections with entries up in both sections. Well done to all three Shows who gave their exhibitors the chance of Royal Event recognition. Every Show has the opportunity to run a Royal Event in one or multiple sections. Take this opportunity if you can afford to, as exhibitors and sponsors are keen to support.

The rest of our Shows in our District have had successful days. It certainly helps when the weather plays its part. I wish Mackenzie all the best for the final Show of the season, especially as they are hosting this year's Golden Fleece competition.

National RAS Conference this year is back in Christchurch in June. I urge you all to come along and network with other Show Committees and other like-minded people. It is a great place to problem solve with other A&P's and come away with new ideas and information as no two Shows are the same and may have answers to similar problems. A good opportunity to take new ideas back to your A&P as we move forward into the future.

I must give a big thank you to 'The Boss Lady' Christine Roberts who runs a very tight ship and keeps me on track. She has everything at her fingertips all the time which makes my job, and the rest of the Councillors, easy. Thank you, Christine.

To all Central District Councillors, thank you for your efforts this past year, especially in attending as many of our District Shows that you have been able to. This has been much appreciated.

Roll on next season. I hope that it will be as successful as this one has been.

7.5.6 Southern District – Rob Hall (Deputy Chairperson) on behalf of Dellwyn Malcolm (Chairperson)

It is with pleasure that I, Rob Hall (new Chairman of Southern District), present the 2024/25 Annual Report, on behalf of the outgoing chairman, Dellwyn Malcolm.

We had Southern District representatives attend all our 18 shows. We enjoyed good weather with a particularly bad start to the season, with a rough spring and challenging conditions to bring stock out in show condition. However, the weather improved to the point where temperatures reached up to 32 degrees - sizzling for Southern regions!! Most shows had record gate takings with Pet sections and Home Industry competitions being very well supported with tents and sheds bulging with produce.

Palmerston / Waihemo hosted our 2024-25 Premier show. The Premier Show is an initiative by former chairperson Jackie Kelly and provides Southern Districts with a chance to show case one of our 18 A&P's annually. The show was held in fine weather. Palmerston / Waihemo has scenic grounds, thanks to annual improvements by the show committee. Their sheep pens greatly benefited competitors.

West Otago A&P hosted a Royal Event in their sheep section and enjoyed the extra status a Royal Event brings.

Southern Districts has a very active Equestrian following with Judges out every weekend during the season, organised by our Judges Convenor Kristine Russell – Thank you Kristine for all your hard work and thank you to all your team of judges. The equestrian movement is strong in the Southern District, which relies on a big contingent of volunteers to make events happen – Thank you.

Our Dairy rep for RAS SD, Amy Green, does a great job in a ending as many shows as possible, promoting youth events and dairy heifer competitions which are run by SD A&P's. There were up to 60 Dairy young handlers involved this year - a very strong following. The dairy heifer competitions in the autumn saw over 30,000 stock judged around the region. Credit goes to the prize winners - the dairy

industry is in great hands! Thanks to our judges, sponsors, drivers, and committee members for maintaining this competition annually.

We have a strong beef following in the Southern Region, which sees many of the competitors supporting Canterbury A&P. Like the Dairy sections, the Beef run a Young Beef Handlers accumulator.

Goats, Alpacas and Sheep add to the strong livestock sections at all the Southern Shows – which reflect the strong rural influence Southland and Otago have on the NZ economy.

We have a RAS Southern District representative (Jackie Kelly) on the Telford Farm Board which oversees the Telford Training Institute, a working farm which trains future tertiary students in agriculture. A fantastic asset in the southern region, and probably not being utilised to its full potential.

Our Rural Young Ambassador has been Georgie Day who represented Southern District with credit at the 100 years celebration of the RAS last June. Georgie is a very active member on Southern Districts, as well as been involved heavily on the Winton and Southland A&P's, breeds and shows her own pony's all while her little family multiples before our eyes!!

Each of our 18 A&P shows in the Southern District are supported by active breeders groups in Sheep, Dairy, Beef and Equestrian. These groups encourage excellence in agriculture breeding which goes hand in hand with the RAS moto. The agricultural industry and rural communities are closely linked to the towns in the region who actively support the showing movement in the south. We are very lucky to be well supported by volunteers and sponsorship – to those folk and businesses we are indebted too and thank them for their continued support year after year.

We have a very active Southern District Committee that supports our A&P's in the region – thank you team for all your hard work.

WRAP UP – feedback from Delegates

Shows - Please support the shows as to what is needed in respective sections/classes.

Royal Shows - Support your attendance.

Nominations – Constitutional cut off dates, and meeting deadlines for role holders.

Remits – Recommend to members that they are furnished late in the year, district circulates them to their members and discussed. Final drafts then furnished by due date in the New Year. Executive could look at a cut-off date to send in draft Remits.

Breeds – How can we get other breeds involved?
Breed Societies need to canvass their Head Office to see if they could be the respective breed delegate to RAS meetings, both at national and district level.
Memo to go out to the Breed Societies reminding them to be proactive and have their say or input. Attendees need to be proactive and go to their respective breeds and ask them to forward on any information that is received from Head Office to their members.

Member organisation – A&P's and Breeds CEO/Managers/Secretaries need to forward on any information that is received from Head Office, irrespective of whether they feel that it is not relevant. Monthly Executive Update has been a positive move.

Members Only Page – RAS intellectual property. Information and templates can be downloaded pertaining to RAS members only.

Conference - Brilliant.
Take Home messages from Guest Speakers/Panel sessions included:
Change 15% of your show format each year; 7% of Americans think that chocolate milk come from Brown Cows; Governance; Do not feel intimidated; Don't work in isolation; Risk Management – Health and Safety; Rural Ambassador – great young people and get them involved.

Strategic Plan - Due to be reviewed by the Executive.
Keep Members Page updated.
Continue to work towards transparency.
Communication is the heart of the RAS.
Districts need to take their youth ambassadors further within the movement.

Conference 2026 – Include an administrator's forum.

Peter Nation – Guest Speaker.

Move around the districts hoping that other members within that district may attend.

Conference to be in a main centre for ease of travel.

Held at the same venue again ie Hotel Elms, Christchurch.

Raffle

\$900+. Thank you to Melissa for her time and support with this annual event.

END