



**2026
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**QUALITY HOTEL ELMS
456 PAPANUI ROAD, CHRISTCHURCH**

26th - 28th JUNE 2026

FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2026

- 9.00am – 12noon** Equestrian District Judges Convenors Meeting
- 12.30pm – 2.30pm** 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
Guest Speaker: Kate Acland - Chair of Beef+Lamb New Zealand



SATURDAY 27 JUNE 2026

- 9.00am – 9.10am** Welcome - RAS President Ben Burgess
- 9.10am – 9.45am** Royal Show and Royal Events Reports from 2025.2026 host shows
- 9.45am – 10.15am** **Morning Tea**
- 10.15am – 12.15pm** **'Your Show' –**
- Presentations – Guest Speakers
 - Discussions/Workshops
 - *Catering for your community*
 - *Volunteers*
 - *Thinking outside the square*
 - *How do we encourage more entries*
 - *Sponsorship Opportunities*
 - *Other*
- 12.15pm to 1.10pm** **Lunch**
- 1.10pm - 1.30pm** Rural Ambassador Speeches
- 1.30pm – 2.00pm** Guest Speaker: Sophie Kirk – Halter
- 2.00pm – 3.00pm** Outcome of the Morning Discussions/Workshop



3.00pm - 3.30pm

Afternoon Tea

3.30pm – 4.15pm

Guest Speaker: Hayden Phillips - Olympic Hockey Player

4.15pm approx

The Day's Wrap-up



Saturday 27 June 2026

Evening Programme

Attendees are encouraged to dress to the theme **"BLACK & WHITE" THEME**

6.00pm – 6.30pm

Pre-dinner drinks/Cash Bar

6.30pm - 7.15pm

Dinner

7.15pm – 7.30pm

Rural Ambassador Award / Presentations

7.30pm

QUIZ NIGHT - *A Fun Night for all –*

you may learn something along the way!



SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2026

8.30am

Equestrian Breed Meeting, followed by the Equestrian Main Meeting

9.30am

United Breeds Meeting

Conference feedback, Q and A - take-home messages

10.30am

Morning Tea

11.00am

RAS Annual General Meeting

11.45am approx

Close of Conference

Immediately following the close of Conference...

RAS Management Team Meeting – District Chairs and Managers

Wishing you a safe trip home