

President's Report 23.5.2018

Presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Circular Head Agricultural Society Inc. at the Stanley Recreation Ground complex, Stanley.

It is with pleasure that I present my third President's report for the Circular Head Agricultural Show Society for 2017-18.

Very windy conditions early in the morning resulted in a stall tent capsizing and injuring a stall holder. Conditions did improve but some patrons may have been deterred with the gate takings down approximately \$1,000. The Marine Esplanade gate was manned again on Friday afternoon resulting in \$265. There was also a clash with the Wynyard Rodeo being held on the same day.

In the lead up to the show, we once again held our Annual Dinner which was attended by 70 people. Guest speaker was Mr Gavin Pearce of Lapoinya Abattoirs and Vice President of Yolla Producers Co-op. Senator Eric Abetz and Deputy Premier, Jeremy Rockliff, also addressed those in attendance.

Robyn Medwin gave an overview at the dinner of the new stockyards proposed, specifically for the Trade Cattle section. As a result Joan Rylah MP was successful in obtaining a commitment from the Liberal Party of a \$50,000 grant if re-elected as a majority government in the then forthcoming State election. This came to fruition which will enable the new stockyards to be in place for the 2018 show.

During the year, the Circular Head Council was also successful in obtaining a Tasmanian Community Fund grant of \$114,395 and with Council funding of \$110,000 and the Show Society contributing \$26,000, a new multipurpose building will be in place for this year's show. This will involve the demolition of the current exhibition hall building which has served the Society since 1941 after being moved to the ground from Marine Esplanade, ex stables for Tatlow's Coaches.

In what has been a tumultuous year for agricultural shows in Tasmania with Devonport Show cancelling at the last minute and Launceston Show signalling they may not have an event this year, it is very pleasing to be able to report the advent of these two projects that will enable the Society to look to the future with optimism.

The inclusion of a different take on "Paddock to Plate" with a "Know Your Meat Cuts" at this year's show was a refreshing new direction and was well received by patrons. This demonstration saw the carcass of a sheep and part of a beast being professionally cut up, showing the different cuts of meat. Appreciation of the Society goes to the many people involved with this event; in particular, Temma Farm and Greenhams for donating the carcasses with the meat subsequently being offered as raffle prizes; Josh Perry and staff of Perry's Quality Meats and Lapoinya Abattoirs for the professional and entertaining way they gave the presentation and to Tracey Martin who incorporated her cooking demonstrations into this area. It is felt that this can be developed further for 2018.

For the first time, Petuna Seafoods were involved on the day by handing out tastings as well as promoting the salmon industry. Due to lack of interest in indoor trade space, the shed adjacent to the exhibition hall was utilised as a combined agriculture/aquaculture theme.

With the assistance of both Rocky Cape and Smithton Lions Clubs, raffle tickets were sold prior to the show with proceeds being split 50% for the Show Society and 25% for each of the Lions Clubs. Offering nearly \$5,000 worth of prizes including four packages of meat worth \$700 each from the meat demonstration, a total of \$7,748.15 was raised with \$3,861.55 to the Society.

Another new event this year was the reverse backing obstacle course using a Honda side by side vehicle lent for the day by Circular Head Motorcycles and sponsored by Laing harvesting. Thanks to Scott Clark for organising this area.

Most of the improvements for this year were directed to promoting the Society's valued sponsors with sponsor boards produced in the categories of Gold, Silver and Bronze. These were placed in a strategic place behind the stage area used for the Opening but it is intended to have them displayed for 12 months of the year. Sponsorship this year totalled \$12,070; it was pleasing to welcome Woolnorth Wind Farm on board sponsoring Rino Morea, the singer/entertainer for the day. In addition, thank you to the CH Garden Club for their kind donation of \$1,000.

Minor works included sealing the pathway in the Animal Nursery; lighting improvements outside of cattle sheds and in the exhibition hall and some remediation work to the ground where the cattle judging takes place with new soil.

The show was opened by Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania, who was able to view different areas before leaving. Thank you to Jenny Newman for again organising the Miss Showgirl competition which is always popular.

The dedication shown by the stewards and helpers in their various areas is highly commendable in ensuring their areas run smoothly in a professional manner.

Trade cattle numbers were down slightly due to conditions during the year but still a very highly successful competition with the presentations made at Greenhams after viewing of carcasses in early January.

Due to the cancellation of the Devonport Show, the State Young Judging was held in conjunction with the State Young Handlers. Cattle entries were on a par with previous years.

Extra effort was placed on the Grand Parade this year and the increased number of participants and people watching was very pleasing. This will continue to be worked on.

The participation in the Exhibition Hall again produced a magnificent display of entries. Every school in Circular Head had a display or entries which was a great result. The decorated cakes exhibited by the Smithton High School were a highlight. It will be a challenge for this year to have display units for all classes. Mercede Quilliam's achievement of Most Successful Exhibitor in the home produce section was very popular as Mercede has been entering for a number of years. With the younger generation exhibiting in all classes all looks good for the

future. Thank you to Cheryl and Pam for the many hours of work they contribute to this wonderful display.

Trade Space was down on previous years including food stalls but thanks to Ian and Heath for handling this complex area. A welcome addition was the Royal Flying Doctor Service with their display. Similarly, sideshow alley was weakened due to the lack of Devonport Show.

The traditional areas of the show including wood chopping and the equestrian events ran smoothly and were complemented by Ritchie Wells and his bullocks; whip crackers -Jenna and Milly; Mike Thow and his reptiles; the N.W. Bird Club and Bonsai Society; the Veteran's Car Club and the Historical Machinery Club – all enhance the array of attractions for patrons to see on the day.

Maureen is again to be congratulated on the display at Collectors' Corner and along with Damien's working display of "men's toys", there was something for everyone!

The Animal Nursery with the improvement to the walkway and the added attraction of ferrets by Kurt Hingston was, as always, very popular. Thank you to Cindy and her crew for the many hours put into this area. The inclusion of Tilley and friends in the Grand parade was a hit!

Complementing the Animal Nursery, with a new location, was Trina and Ray's dog agility area which was enjoyed all day, particularly by patrons who were able to interact with the dogs. Trina overcame adversity at the last minute with her and Ray putting in a huge amount of work to get the area together at short notice.

The volunteers are the backbone of the show and although reluctant to single people out; Peter Johnston, Don Bugg and Brian Stokes were invaluable the week prior to the show. The gatekeepers are an integral part of the show and along with people like Marie Bruce who spends hours beautifully writing the prize cards for the exhibition hall, there are many people who contribute in different ways. It was pleasing to welcome Chris Morris back as PA announcer.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank all volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors, participants and personally the committee members whose support and commitment is greatly appreciated. One loss for the committee, after many years of support, was Col Anderson when he and his wife moved to Wynyard in January.

Milton and Gaylene again provided a magnificent venue for the committee's social outing after the show.

It is with excitement we can look forward to the 2018 show with a new exhibition hall and new stockyards while realising there will be many challenges ahead for the Society.

A.E. (Tony) Hine

President