

President's Report 2019-20

Presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Circular Head Agricultural Society Inc. on 24th June 2020 at the Stanley Recreation Ground complex, Stanley.

It is with pleasure that I present my fifth President's report for the 111th Circular Head Agricultural Show Society which was held on the last Saturday of November (30th) 2019 and will be for future years. The earlier date was approved by the Tasmanian Agricultural Council after Devonport Show was cancelled for two years with no immediate future plans for recommencement.

It was a very busy year in the lead up to the 2019 show with several projects undertaken and completed, either with grant or the Society's own funding.

- 2018-19 New stockyards and viewing platform for the Trade Cattle competition. Both projects came in close to the funding of \$50,000 at \$50,092.62.
- 2018-20 New multipurpose building was used for the first time with Home Industries displays. A major undertaking by the Circular Head Council with funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund, Circular Head Council, Forest-Stanley Cricket Club and the Show Society contributing \$34,100. Display cabinets were also purchased at a cost of \$18,482.15.
- 2019-20 Volunteer Grant (\$4,100) - Damien constructed three trailers to store and transport the Society's outdoor table settings. The trailers have also been registered.
- 2018-19 Agricultural Show Development Grant (\$24,528) for the construction of crowd barriers and trailer for storage and transport.
- 2019 Community Circular Head Council grant (\$2,117.50) for purchase of an extra 30 wheelie bins.

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in obtaining funding for a new beef shed roof that is beyond repair.

Maintenance and purchases:

- Renewed cladding on part of back of stables.
- Constructed a new chopping and soil pit.
- Maintenance work on pens in trade cattle shed.
- Guttering installed on the side of the Animal Nursery shed.
- Purchased a second hand fridge; an additional ten plastic tables, two trolleys and a tarp.

It has been a big couple of years for our committee members and, in particular, Damien Smith, who has been our driving force and cannot be thanked enough for his contributions. All of the above projects will make an enormous contribution to the viability of the Circular Head Show as well as making required tasks easier that are performed by volunteers.

After missing last year, the annual dinner was held again at Hursey Seafoods with guest speaker Andrew Harris from the Department of Education, Statewide Co-ordinator for

Revitalising the Schools programme. The dinner was well attended. Annabel Dixon was presented with a Certificate of Merit and a presentation was made to John Bergman for fifty years of service to the Society.

2019 was a record year for sponsorship with over 100 individuals and companies; the newly opened branch of the Circular Head Community Bendigo Bank was welcomed as a Premium Platinum sponsor and we look forward to working with them in the future. Other major sponsors welcomed were Collins Contracting, Petuna Aquaculture, Saputo Dairy, TFGA, Rex Airlines, Atkins Livestock Services and Valentino from NW Website Design who sponsored and designed a new web site for the Society.

Huge thanks must also go to the donors of the major raffle which was held for the third year in conjunction with the Rocky Cape and Smithton Lions Clubs proving very beneficial to all involved. Roberts Ltd, Smithton, generously paid for the printing of the tickets.

The weather could not have been better for the actual day and even though the adult admission price had been increased to \$12 from \$10, the gate takings were up considerably reflecting the crowd numbers that were present on the day. For the first time, Eftpos was available at the main gate.

The Home Industries area was again a magnificent display in the new area with thanks to Cheryl, Pam and their many helpers. Sally Wise of ABC fame judged the Preserves section as well as helped Josh in the *Graze the Region* area. With the purchase of a fridge, new classes were added for fermented products. The new date of one week earlier did have an effect on the number of vegetable entries but was made up for in the floral section. Thanks goes to Jenny Newman who encouraged new exhibitors by holding a floral art demonstration a few days prior to the show. The Society appreciates the continued support of the local schools on all levels; this year a theme being the *Centenary of the First Flight across Bass Strait* had some great displays.

For all areas of stock judging, a mainland judge was procured as well as a mainland course builder for the horse jumping arena, which attracted the largest number of entries for some years. Thank you to stewards and their helpers in all areas. Also to Milton, John and their sub-committee for their input in to the new stockyard facilities and ongoing commitment to the Greenham's Trade and Export competition. Thank you must go to Greenham's for accommodating the carcass competition and presentations.

The Radford family and their helpers looked resplendent in their custom made shirts in the Animal Nursery. Always a popular attraction by all ages, Cindy plans her animals all year and it is very much a labour of love by the whole family; thank you Cindy, Trixie and Cally from the Society.

The wood chopping area was well patronised with two World Champion axemen competing. Tree felling was held again and the classes ran for most of the day. It is a big task to organise and prepare the blocks but the chopping is an integral part of the day.

The show was opened by Federal MP, Gavin Pearce, which was followed by the Showgirl and boy competition and thanks goes to Ash-Lee Hardy for compering this year.

Free entertainment and displays included face painting, a mechanical bucking bull, remote control cars, mascots, singer, Rino Morea, NW Snake Catchers and for the first time we welcomed Jye, the Discovery Ranger, Biosecurity Tasmania, the Lobster Pond, spinners from the Burnie Club and the Burnie Highland Pipe Band whose last appearance was 1982.

The ground was abuzz all day culminating with the usual Grand Parade which was reminiscent of years gone by. Prize winners and exhibitors from all areas were led by the Burnie Highland Pipe Band and the ever popular Ritchie Wells and his working bullocks with the Veteran Car members and trade space machinery joining in. Thanks to Scott van Norden for taking charge of this area.

The Society is also grateful to Josh Perry of Perry's Quality Meats who continues to organise the very popular "Graze the Region" segment – this year showcasing 14 local and Tasmanian produce along with the producers.

The Circular Head Show has traditionally always been well supported by the community and this year was no different. Thank you to sponsors, exhibitors, patrons and all the volunteers who help in any way. A big thank you to committee members; it was very pleasing to welcome new members – Carlton Heres (on PA); Craig Dwyer (On site vet) and Scott van Norden (Grand Parade) – who all played an integral part in the show.

It is a much different AGM meeting tonight. Current regulations legally restrict the number of people that can attend to 23. Consideration has to be focused on whether we have a 2020 show or not. The COVID 19 worldwide virus epidemic has virtually turned the world upside down. The show has been cancelled three times in its history since 1907, one of those times being the Spanish influenza in 1919. Whatever the outcome, I am confident the Society will continue with their usual enthusiasm and commitment to providing an entertaining and traditional one day agricultural show, whether it be this year or 2021.

A.E. (Tony) Hine
President