

President's Report 2020-21

Presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Circular Head Agricultural Society Inc. on 26th May 2021 at the Stanley Recreation Ground complex, Stanley.

It is with pleasure that I present my sixth President's report. As a result of the Covid-19 world wide virus pandemic it was left as late as possible to see whether a show could be held in 2020. With Public Health and Government guidelines the decision was made that there would be no public events in the foreseeable future so at a meeting on 29th July it was confirmed that the show for 2020 would be cancelled. As it unfolded there were no events at all held for the year and the first major public event since March 2020 was Agfest held this month.

This is only the fourth time in its history, the show has been cancelled.

However, it was decided to go ahead with the major raffle and proceeds were to be split three ways between the Show Society, the Rocky Cape Lions Club and the Smithton Lions Club. Sponsors were obtained for 21 prizes with a total of \$11,395.14 being raised and each organisation receiving \$3,798.38. Over four years a total of \$35,425.54 has been raised; a mammoth effort with thanks to all sponsors and ticket sellers.

A Tasmanian Community Fund grant was identified for Post Covid recovery and after discussion with the Stanley Chamber of Commerce, it was decided that the Show Society apply for a grant to construct a Community/Men's Shed on the Stanley Recreation Ground. A large amount of ground work was involved and unfortunately the application was unsuccessful. The project was then taken over by the Stanley Chamber of Commerce who are currently gauging if there is sufficient interest with a dedicated committee to continue on the base work already completed. The Society is holding \$2,306 in funds that are dedicated to the proposed Community Shed which was half share in the sale of a beast donated by Les and Troy Porteus.

Both the State and Federal Governments have been very supportive of organisations that have had to cancel events. As a result of Federal Government funding, the Society has received \$6,713.89 in this financial year to cover ongoing costs and \$6,386.15 that will show in the financial year 2021-22. This has helped to cover costs like insurance, power, affiliation fees, etc. An application for the State Government Agricultural Show Development Grants Program has also been submitted for \$4,960 to go towards Covid necessities including signage. No notification has been received at this time. It is also pleasing that with the tables being able to be transported easily now, \$450 has been raised through hiring them out.

A list of maintenance items were prepared last year which have not been acted upon and will subsequently be revisited this year. However, it is great that funding has only recently been announced for the biggest project to raise and renew the beef shed roof. The Federal Liberal Government are providing \$11,000 through Stronger Communities Programme Round 6 and the State Liberal Government will contribute \$25,000. The Show Society were also successful in obtaining funds for refurbishment of the public toilet block for \$132,300. Both of these projects were the result of State Liberal Government Local Communities Facilities Fund and announced as part of the recent election (May 1). A grant application was unsuccessfully applied for the toilet block refurbishment a couple of years ago. Along with the new multi-

purpose building, both of these projects will enhance the Stanley Recreation Ground facilities immensely. The toilet block especially was well below standard even before Covid-19 and the resultant cleaning regime that will need to take place. The demolition of the old piggery building is still on the agenda.

Even though there was no Trade Cattle competition, entries were still processed through Greenham Tas, Smithton and Gippsland, for the triannual Beef Expo held at Rockhampton in May 2021. There were some excellent local results.

It is certainly acknowledged that the next few months will have some challenges particularly around Covid-19 guidelines and the requirement to have all events ticketed. However, it is also exciting that the Society will be able to achieve some major projects looking in to the future. I feel sure with 12 months remission, our committee will be keen to once again bring together a top one day agricultural show that we are known for and that patrons and exhibitors will be eager to attend.

Thank you,

A.E. (Tony) Hine
26th May, 2021