

VICTORIAN AGRICULTURAL SHOWS LIMITED

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MARCH EDITION 2017

Dear Members

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE



The Spring Show season had its challenges with the wet season causing stress to our Show organisers with many grounds too boggy or unusable at the time of their normal Show date.

Fortunately for many they took the initiative and sorted out an alternate date for either their whole Show or just the horse events. I appreciate the patience of the Members that were urgent to get a statement out about their show date change but a process had to be worked through to avoid clashes with other shows in the immediate area.

Congratulations to the VAS representatives on their achievements at the National Finals of the various competitions held in Launceston October 2016. Winner of National Final Beef Cattle Parader was Ruby Canning from Mortlake & the Dairy Parader was Katie Anderson from Numurkah. Congratulations on your achievements. Overall Victoria place second by one point in the Patrick Keast Shield for the most successful state.

The Saddlehorse Championships was once again a very successful event held in January. The weather was hot but most of the competitors braved the conditions and the quality of horses was fantastic. Feature events of the Championships were the Off the Track for the Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds which were highlights. The partnerships with Racing Victoria and Harness Racing Victoria are working well and proving very successful. Recently the State Government Minister announced funding for the continuation of the harness rehoming program for a further 3 years.

A welcomed announcement by the State Government Minister for Regional Development Jaala Pulford was the confirmation of 53 Shows that will receive funding for various projects to enhance their facilities. These funds are important to the Members and it is much appreciated. This funding announcement has been delayed from the original timelines but recipients must complete their projects by the end of May. A further round

of funding will be available at a later date for those that might like to apply for a large or small project.

Community grants are also other opportunities for Societies and the office staff continually provide information to the Secretaries of opportunities that come available from time to time.

The Board recently confirmed a new agreement with the Victorian Showmen's Guild for the next 3 years. Whilst VAS has an agreement in place with the Guild to be the primary supplier of amusements at our Victorian Shows it is still the responsibility of the Show Societies to have their own agreements in place for their event.

The Board has been working on several projects and the most recent outcomes have been the adoption of a Bullying and Harassment policy. Unfortunately confrontation with exhibitors has increased in recent years and VAS has had many issues to deal with so therefore a policy has now been adopted to assist the Members with a process to follow to deal with such matters. The new policy will be circulated to Secretaries for their use with resolving matters.

As of the 1st January 2017 the State Government released changes for the voluntary organisations in regard to "Working with Children" requirements. The information has been circulated to all Members and it is the responsibility of each Society to adopt its own policy and do what it feels is necessary to protect the Society or its patrons.

Whilst the Autumn Show season is now in full swing hopefully weather is favourable to all and not too hot to deter people attending.

Paul Grayland
VAS Ltd Chairman

2017 CONVENTION

The 2017 Convention will be hosted by the Goulburn Valley group at the Shepparton Harness Racing Complex on the 30th June – 2nd July. The weekend will include the VAS AGM, July Council Meeting, Insurance seminar, Homecrafts Judges & Show Stewards Workshop, Dinner Saturday night where the winners of the Carrot Cake competitions and Junior Ambassador Award will be announced.

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SADDLEHORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The VAS Ltd Saddlehorse Championships once again had an amazing weekend of high quality horse showing which was held at the Bendigo Showgrounds on the 8th & 9th January 2017 during a weekend of very hot weather.

Qualifiers from the many Victorian affiliated Shows competed for the major awards in the various sections. With over 1,000 entries and 384 horses was great support for this event that has been running for many years as the culmination of our Country Shows. Committee Chairperson Jenny Daffy reports that the success of the Championships is mainly due to the support of the exhibitors and the fantastic volunteers that assist make the show a first class event. The increase in the childrens riding, show hunters and the standardbreds has been a great growth area of the event and the friendly atmosphere is appreciated by the exhibitors.

HERO SERIES FINAL



EBONI KNIGHTS AND EQUITY WIZZ BANG TAKE HOME \$1000 AND THE TITLE OF WINNER OF THE HERO FINAL

HERO
Harness Education & Re-homing Opportunities

The new event this year was the Standardbred HERO series for the retired Harness Racing Horses. A very impressive lineup of 35 horses competed for the major prize of \$1,000 cash, sash, garland & rug with the winner being retired for some years with rider Eboni Knights emotional as she claimed the prize stating that she had worked the horse for some 8 years to get to where she was in the final and the overall winner. 22 Standardbreds also competed in the best presented class which was a fantastic display of rehomed horses.

RACING VICTORIA OFF THE TRACK STATE FINAL



SARAH MCMASTER AND EXCELLINGLY CLAIMING THE 2017 RACING VICTORIA STATE TITLE - OFF THE TRACK SERIES

Over 42 competitors braved the heat to battle out the Racing Victoria "Off the Track" State Final. Overall the quality of the field was fantastic and judged by a panel consisting of 3 judges including racehorse trainer Shaun Dwyer, rehoming horse woman Nikki Cook, & show judge Neil Shiphard.

All horses were put through their paces with 15 selected for a final workout and point scored to get an overall winner. The winner was the former racehorse Excellingly shown by the McMaster Family. The winner received \$1,000 cash, sash, garland & rug and represents Victoria in the National final in November 2017. The most recently highest placed horse Off the Track in the past 2 years was Pompeii, shown by Mullan Family.

VAS BOARD ELECTIONS

Nominations for VAS Board elections will be circulated to all Societies during March with nominations closing 30th April 2017. One position will be available by compulsory retirement as the Chairman Paul Grayland has served his maximum term of 6 years. Four other positions also become vacant due to affliction of time. If you are interested in a Board position nomination forms need to be signed by 2 voting delegates from a Society and submitted to the Company Secretary Rod Bowles by the prescribed time. If in the event of more nominations than positions an election will be held. Members will need to be financial at the time of the election to be eligible to vote.

VAS LTD DAIRY JUDGES AND PARADERS COMPETITIONS - STATE FINALS

The Dairy Cattle Junior Judging and Handlers finals were held at Tatura during the International Dairy week. A strong field of experienced handlers competed for the winner's title with the winner being: 1st Renee Anderson, 2nd Lora Schultz, 3rd Zali Deenan

Winners pictured below



JUNIOR JUDGES: CALLY O'SHANNASY TAMARA LOUGHRIDGE, RACHEL DICKSON & KARL MUNDEN

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS AUSTRALIA

The newly formed National organisation Agricultural Show Australia is up and running with a 10 Member Board elected comprising 4 directors from the Royal Shows and 4 directors representing the Country Shows and 2 next generation Members from the younger movement. The 2017 National Finals for the various National Competitions will be held during the Melbourne Royal Show in September.

2017/18 SHOW THEME

"FOOD COMES FROM FARMS"

NATIONAL FINALS TIMETABLE

(Subject to Change)

Sunday 24 September

Rural Ambassador National & State Final

9:00am – 10:00pm

Day includes interviews & Evening Dinner

Monday 25 September

Merino Fleece Judging 8:30am – 10:30am

Meat Breeds Sheep Judging 8:30 – 10:30am

Merino Sheep Judging 10:30am – 12:00pm

Thursday 28 September

Dairy Cattle Paraders 12:30 – 1:15pm

Dairy Cattle Judging 1:30pm – 3pm

Friday 29 September

Beef Cattle Paraders 4pm – 4:45pm

Beef Cattle Judging 5pm – 6:30pm

2017 VAS REPRESENTATIVES AT NATIONAL FINALS

Rural Ambassador – Katerina Blekic

Beef Cattle Judging – Jessica Parker

Beef Cattle Parading – Erin Arnott

Wool Judging – Tess Runting

Wool Sheep Judging – Adam Bennett

Meat Sheep Judging – Mathew Hill

Dairy Cattle Judging – Cally O'Shannasy

Dairy Cattle Parading – Renee Anderson

Good Luck to all the Victorian State Finalists participating in National Finals Competitions

NEW NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

During the next year, new competitions for Poultry Junior Judges and Grains Judging competition will be introduced nationally. Details are currently being developed and available following endorsement at the next FCAS meeting during the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

**NEXT VAS LTD
COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 23rd MARCH
2017**

Seymour Showgrounds @
10am

Please RSVP by 16th March

FRUIT CAKE STATE FINAL COMPETITION SPONSORSHIP

VAS is delighted to announce a new 2 year partnership with Ward McKenzie who has kindly come on board to sponsor the prize money and trophies for the Rich Fruit Cake and Junior Boiled Fruit Cake State Final competitions during the Royal Melbourne Show. The Board appreciates this level of support and welcomes the announcement.



MERITORIOUS AWARDS

The Board invites nominations from Societies to put forward long serving Show dedicated people to be recognised with a meritorious award. Applications can be sent to the Executive Officer with an attached summary of the person's contribution and the Board will assess the applications on merit.

NEXT GENERATION

Some Shows have provided a Next Gen representative for their Societies. If you have anyone that would be interested between the ages of 15 & 35 years, please advise the office so that they can be sent information about the State Next Gen group. There will be a meeting of the Next Gen in the coming months and a time and date will be advised when determined.

AFFILIATION FEES

The Board is pleased to announce that the affiliation fees have remained the same for this coming year. Many shows were effected with wet weather during the spring season and gate takings were down for many. A reminder to all Secretaries to fill out the affiliation form and submit to the office prior to the end of February and fees are payable by the end of March.

CARROT CAKE COMPETITIONS

Sponsored by



DELEGATE OPTIONS

Changes to Number of Delegates -

Financial Membership of VAS entitles your Society to nominate **one (1) Voting rights delegate** and up to three (3) Sub Committee Members and last year a new inclusion was the Next Generation Sub Committee. One of four (4) Sub Committee Members must be specifically nominated to the Next Generation Committee only otherwise the entitlement is a maximum of 3 Sub-Committee Members.

The Board in 2016 introduced the Next Generation Committee as it is focused on the involvement of the Youth and this Committee is constituted the same as other Committees with an allowance of up to two (2) delegates as a maximum on any one committee.

OH&S ISSUES

Societies are reminded to report any major or minor accidents that occur during their Show to VAS and their Insurer.

2017 CONVENTION COMPETITIONS

Convention Competitions 2017

2 Classes - *limit 2 entries per class per Society*

- 1 x Tomato Sauce 250-500mls
- 1 x Stone fruit Conserve 250-300grams

Convention 2017 - Fun Competition

- Decorated Bra/Jocks Competition
1 item per person entry, \$1.00 to vote for popular choice. All donations donated to Breast/Prostate Cancer awareness.

2018 CONVENTION

Expressions of interest are invited from Groups to host the 2018 Convention, keeping in mind that this event can be hosted anywhere and is not limited to the area that a group is based in. Applications can be submitted to the VAS office for the Boards consideration.

