

# Annual Report of the Naracoorte Pastoral and Agricultural Society Year ending March 31st, 1963

This is the first time that I have had the privilege of presenting the Annual Report of the Naracoorte Pastoral and Agricultural Society, and as your President for the past year I must report a year of change and progress.

## Ground Improvements:

Early in May, 1962, the whole Show arena was levelled and sod seeded with subterranean and strawberry clovers and heavily topdressed, all the necessary materials and labour being donated for this most important ground improvement. Results obtained from this were most apparent on Show day, when the arena probably had never looked better.

One outstanding and unavoidable item of expense was that incurred by the Society in completely replacing the electrical installation covering the Showmen's area and Trade Section.

This was forced upon the Society by virtue of the fact that the old installation had depreciated to such an extent that it no longer conformed to the stringent safety regulations laid down by the Electricity Trust of South Australia, and so was condemned and had to be replaced.

I wish to report that this new electrical installation was extended to the Sheep Pavilion and also to the old Sheep Section building which now houses most effectively the Poultry pens.

## New Grounds:

Most members are aware of the restricted area of our present grounds and, because of this, and the anticipated future expansion of the town and district, a larger future Showgrounds area was sought.

After several months negotiation an area of land of 40 acres in extent facing the Bordertown Road was granted to the Society on a 20 year lease basis.

Before last winter an area of land was prepared and fenced facing the Bordertown Road and planted to young trees of various types. During the year the remaining boundary fence lines have been bulldozed clear of useless timber, ready for new fencing.

## Show Report:

I wish to report that the Showground was in perfect condition for the 1962 Show, but that the weather was inclement on the first day and evening, causing a fall off in gate money which over the two days was £54 down on 1961 figures.

There were very good entries in all sections, with sheep numbers outstanding and cattle entries considerably higher than the previous year. Sheep were penned and exhibited for the full two days and, for the first time in the Society's history, were on view on the Friday night in the Sheep Pavilion under the new lighting system.

There are some strong arguments for and against this new innovation, and the Sheep Committee will have to study the position most carefully to cater for the exhibitors and to satisfy the viewing public at our Centenary Show.

Horses in action were again a feature of our Show, and the Horse Committee are to be commended for their efficient handling of the large number of entries.

Hall exhibits were up to standard, but Agricultural Produce Section was disappointing. Competition in the Wool Section, I feel, could also be improved.

Our official guests for the second day were Sir Thomas and Lady Playford. Sir Thomas declared the Show open and remained with us for the evening, being entertained at Dinner by the Show Committee.

I would like to record here our thanks to Sir Thomas and Lady Playford for officiating at our Show last year. His action in accepting our invitation was greatly appreciated.

## Finance:

A perusal of the Balance Sheet indicates that, compared with 1961 figures, income from members' subscriptions and donations are up by £116. A significant increase was the return from Side Show and Trade Stand rental, which increased by £145. Returns from Entry Fees and Advertising are £72 higher.

Ground Rental fell by £37 to £523, and Gate Takings by £54 to £798.

In spite of a heavy non-recurring expense incurred during the past year, I consider that the Society has experienced a satisfactory year. The Society is currently sponsoring a Queen in the Mount Gambier Coronation Anniversary Ball Competition, to provide finance for fencing materials for the new grounds and also to reduce the present deficit.

In conclusion, I would like, on behalf of the Committee, to sincerely thank the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Ladies' Committee, donors of trophies and all others who have contributed so generously during the past year.

To my Committee I wish to express my sincere personal thanks for their long hours of work and continued support.

As we face up to the coming year — our Centenary Year — let us all, both the Committee and members of the Society, pledge ourselves to give unswerving support, so that our Centenary Show may be outstandingly successful and worthy of this well known and highly productive District.

R. H. BADMAN,  
President, Naracoorte P. & A. Society  
March 31st, 1963