



THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

“100 Years of Legacy – and - to the next 100 years”

CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

Annual General Meetings

9 June 2024

Hotel Elms, Christchurch

Gazette 224 (2024)



RAS - Showcasing Rural Excellence

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND



2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hotel Elms, 456 Papanui Road, Christchurch

“100 Years of Legacy – and - to the next 100 years”

FRIDAY 7 JUNE 2024

11.30am - 1.30pm	Equestrian District Judges Convenors Meeting
1.30pm – 3.00pm	Horse Stewards Council Executive Meeting
3.00pm – 5.00pm	RAS Management Team Meeting (Districts Representatives and the Executive)

6.00pm – 8.00pm Pre – Conference Centennial Celebration and Booklet Launch

SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2024

9.00am – 9.05am	Welcome
9.05am – 9.15am	RAS President Rachel Walker
9.15am - 9.45am	Guest Speaker Peter Nation - Chief Executive of New Zealand National Fielddays <i>Agricultural events in today's operating environment</i>
9.45am - 10.00am	RAS Patron Her Excellency, The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand

10.00am - 10.30am Morning Tea

10.30am -11am	Guest Speaker Peri Drysdale MBE - Chief Executive Officer / Founder at Untouched World Ltd and Chair of Untouched World Foundation <i>Innovation in a traditional sector</i>
11am – 12.30pm	Innovation Workshop - Innovation and the big challenges Topic 1: What does it mean to have a “social license to operate” in 2024? Topic 2: Why choose agricultural products over synthetic alternatives? Topic 3: Animal welfare and potential animal activism at member events Topic 4: What would an A&P show without competitions look like? What will A&P shows look like in 50 years' time?

12.30pm - 1.15pm Lunch

1.15pm – 1.45pm	Guest Speaker Nigel Woodhead BAgSci - President of the Tokomairiro A&P Society, FMG Young Farmer of the Year 2017, Sheep and Beef Farmer <i>The future role of shows in showcasing rural excellence</i>
1.45pm – 2.30pm	Rural Ambassador Finalists Speeches
2.30pm – 3.00pm	2023 Rural Ambassador Sophie Holst <i>Maximising the benefits of available technology, social media, and using Zoom</i>

3.00pm - 3.30pm Afternoon Tea

3.30pm - 4.30pm	Breed and Kindred Societies (yesterday, today, and tomorrow) <i>What do breed and kindred society members want from the showing movement?</i> Group 1: Cattle Group 2: Equestrian Group 3: Sheep and Other Breeds
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SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2024

Evening Programme

Attendees encouraged to dress to the theme "Through the Years".

5.30pm – 6.00pm	Pre-dinner drinks
6.00pm – 6.30pm	Photos
6.30pm - 7.15pm	Main course served
7.15pm – 8.00pm	Rural Ambassador Awards
8.00pm	Dessert
8.15pm	Music and dancing

SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2024

8.00am – 9.15am	Equestrian Annual General Meeting
9.15am – 10.30am	United Breeds Annual General Meeting

10.30am – 11.00am **Morning Tea**

11.00am - 12noon	RAS Annual General Meeting
12noon - 12.15pm	Conference feedback and take-home messages
12.15pm	Close of Conference
12.30pm - 1.00pm	RAS Management Team Meeting
1.00pm	RAS Executive Meeting - (Districts Representatives and the Executive)



INDEX

	Page(s)
1. Executive and Committees	5
2. President's Opening Speech	6-8
3. Equestrian Breeds	
- Minutes	9-11
- Reports	11-16
4. Equestrian (Main)	
- Minutes	17-22
- Reports	23-31
- Equestrian Levies collected	32
- Correspondence	33-34
5. United Breeds Society (UBS)	
- Minutes	35-40
- Report – Chairperson	41
- Reports: Beef Cattle	41-43
- Reports: Dairy Cattle	43-45
- Reports: Sheep	45-46
- Reports: Other Breeds	46-47
6. Royal A&P Society NZ (RAS)	
- Minutes	48-54
- Report: President	54-57
- Report: Financial (link)	57
- Reports:	
Districts Chairpersons	58-63
- Levies/Fees Review	64
- Honorary Life Memberships	64-65
7. Wrap Up – feedback from delegates	65



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE and COMMITTEES 2024.2025



EXECUTIVE

Rachel Walker – President	E: rachel@ras.org.nz
Nic Barkley – Vice President/Treasurer	E: nic@ras.org.nz
Ben Burgess – Member	E: benjburgess@gmail.com
Anne Rogers – Member	E: anne@jazzbears.co.nz
Sophie Holst – Member	E: sophieholst@outlook.co.nz
Caitlin Rhodes – 2024 Rural Ambassador Winner (co-opted)	E: caitlinrhodes2014@gmail.com

HORSE STEWARDS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE (HSCEX)

Helena McLeod-Niven - Chairperson	M: 022 019 8471
Maxine Mulligan – National Clean Sport Convenor	M: 027 240 8504
Melissa Jebson - National Judges Convenor	M: 021 236 5548
Rick Croft - National Measuring Convenor	M: 027 492 0345

UNITED BREEDS SOCIETY COUNCIL (UBS)

Ben Burgess – UBS Council Chairperson	E: benjburgess@gmail.com
Mark Fleming - Beef Cattle Breeds Chairperson	M: 027 298 0731
Kelly Allison - Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson	M: 027 245 8613
Ian Stevenson - Sheep Breeds Chairperson	M: 027 436 1262
Leigh Taylor - Equestrian Breeds Chairperson	M: 027 431 2092

EQUESTRIAN JUDGES

Melissa Jebson - National Convenor	M: 021 236 5548
Melissa Jebson – (Acting) Northern District Convenor	M: 021 236 5548
Amanda Parkes – Mid-Northern District Convenor	M: 027 593 8002
Maxine Mulligan – Eastern District Convenor	M: 027 240 8504
Alan Windle – Western District Convenor	M: 027 415 7512
Melissa Jebson – Central District Convenor	M: 021 236 5548
Kristine Russell – Southern District Convenor	M: 027 620 4451



Opening Speech by President, Rachel Walker...

Tēnā koutou katoa

Ko Rachel Walker tōku ingoa

Its great to be back together today, and this time, to celebrate our Centenary. 100 years of the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand – doesn't time fly.

I hope by now you have in your possession a copy of the wonderful Centenary booklet, so ably researched and prepared for you by our own Maria Barta. The copies you have in your hands are the only hard copies that we will be making available – you cannot buy them, and they will not be provided to every member in hard copy (though they will be available to all members online later in the year). They are a keepsake and gift to you as attendees and delegates of this, our centenary conference.

This conference will be a little different to previous and a bit special. By now you will have your conference bag, courtesy of Central District and named rosette, and you will have seen the wonderful table settings and various centenary branding. We haven't gone crazy but you only get one centenary and we saved up some pennies last year to make sure we could do this, and provide you with the Centenary Medals to distribute and a Certificate of affiliation to the Society.

Being our Centenary, of course we will look back. We will look back over the hundred years since the RAS was gazetted and formed. We will also discuss today. But our biggest theme must always be the future of the movement.

But first to some welcomes and some thanks you's.

Welcome everyone to the RAS 2024 conference. Welcome to our member representatives; our honoured guests, our national and district holder holders; our Honorary Life Members and Life Members: our judges; our officials and our competitors. I know many of you fit more than one category and give freely of your time and energy. Thank you to the Executive and to Christine, our wonderful Operations Manager – you are all amazing. Thank you to those who volunteer and thank you to those who are in paid roles – thank you for choosing to be part of the showing movement in New Zealand.

Thank you also to our wonderful guest speakers, all of whom are already here with us in the room. Thank you for helping us to make this conference so special.

Thanks to all of you for caring about showcasing rural excellence.

I realise I'm preaching to the choir on why showcasing rural excellence – the purpose of the RAS – is relevant to New Zealand and New Zealanders. But we are here today to celebrate and strengthen what we do. We are here to share ideas and think about the future.

In this year of our centenary, its useful to look back, recognise today, and then look to the future.

We are in luck – 1924 was a census year in New Zealand, and “The New Zealand Official Yearbook 1924” [THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK, 1924 \(stats.govt.nz\)](https://stats.govt.nz/publications/the-new-zealand-official-yearbook-1924) tells us:

- The population of the Dominion of New Zealand as at 31st March, 1923, was 1,325,301.
- “Somewhat over one-third (36.82 per cent.) of the population of the Dominion is included in the four principal urban areas—Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin—and nearly one-half (49.89 per cent.) in these and in the ten secondary urban areas.”

Last year I talked about how New Zealand society has changed in many ways in the last 20 – 30 years. While I don't want to regurgitate that information, I think it's useful to recognise that:

- On 29 May 2024 New Zealand's population was 5,266,324 people. The United Nations estimate that by 1 July 2024, our population will have increased by 3,615 people. In under 5 weeks. That's an

additional 113 New Zealanders each day. Our population has increased by 16,950 people since 1 January 2024. It is projected that our population will hit 5 and a half million in 2030. [New Zealand Population 2024 \(Live\) \(worldpopulationreview.com\)](#)

- In 2023, the urban population for New Zealand was 87 %. [New Zealand Urban population, 1960-2023 - knoema.com](#). That's nearly double the proportion in 1924.

Last year I reported that on 23 May 2023, Stuff ran an article entitled "Ratio of sheep to people falls below 5:1 for first time since 1850s".

This year, on 3 May 2024, Radio New Zealand tells us that "New StatsNZ figures show the national flock dropped by 3 percent in the year to June 2023 to 24.4 million sheep. The decline in sheep numbers followed a two percent drop the year before. With a population of about 5.3 million people - it now meant there was just 4.6 sheep per person. The latest stats also show beef cattle numbers have fallen by 4 percent to 3.7 million while dairy cattle dropped by one percent to 5.9 million." [New Zealand's iconic sheep-to-person ratio keeps falling | RNZ News](#)

So where is the showing movement at in 2024, our centenary year?

Since COVID hit, the Executive have been more attentive to the experience of our members. We call the A&P members every year, which means we now have three years' worth of data re the experience and situation of our members. This isn't a scientific set of questions or an independent survey – just a series of conversations person to person. But what we are finding, is that those conversations are getting longer, deeper, broader and our members are sharing their highs and lows. I personally made one phone call this year that went for nearly an hour, something that was unheard of the first year. It's not been uncommon to talk in the last year for 20 – 30 minutes, on a range of topics, the following being the most consistent. If you've read my President's Report for the AGM you will have seen that 71 member A&P shows tells us that:

- Trades seem to be going very well, with six times as many saying they were up than said they were down, and most others saying they were on par with previous years.
- Home Industries/Hall sections remain popular, with three times as many recording them as being up on last year as said they were down.
- Gate takings were variable, with many having a record take. Those that were lower generally referenced bad weather or competing major events such as concerts. Twice as many said they were up than said they were down.
- Dairy, beef, and sheep entries were up for many more shows than they were down. In fact 5 – 10 times as many were up rather than down.
- However, twice as many shows reported equestrian numbers were down than reported they were up.

So what does that tell us? And what else are we seeing?

We are seeing a gradual increase in the number of Breed and Kindred Society members – we cannot see this movement as solely about the A&P membership and their needs. We must make sure we are meeting the needs of all our members.

What has been interesting to me in the conventional and social media storm around the challenges faced by one of our largest show members, is the notable passion among the public for the movement and what we do. People want to attend what we offer and there is a large group of people out there who understand that our shows are different to one another. They appreciate the nostalgia. They like the agricultural and pastoral offering. But they are not rural themselves, and they are not competing with livestock – they do want to see some though, and have their kids see them.

What will showcasing rural excellence look like in the future?

I spoke to this question last year, but it seems even more pertinent now. Other speakers will also challenge us on this topic, as will the workshops we have later this morning and this afternoon.

My personal view is that we should be prepared to consider a different “look and feel”. It may be that doesn't end up being our future, and we carry on in a similar vein for decades. But what if we blindly ignore the indications of how the world is changing and get caught out? If we have thought about a different way to showcase rural excellence, we will be ready to do what those who attend our events come to see.

One of the challenges of the movement as I see it is that most of us who are involved in planning the future are here because we have enjoyed our past. Most of us have been competitors or exhibitors, so we look at the shows with that lens – we want the competitions we enjoyed to carry on with limited change. But what if no one shows up? What if those wonderful classes you enjoyed as a child or teenager have no one in them anymore? This is not unique to us, I've been told anecdotally that the numbers competing in local dressage competitions in my district have halved.

We have tended to view a reduction in competitor numbers as a problem – and of course it is a challenge. Although many of our A&P members are saying that's not their experience, they are getting good entry numbers. I'm also inclined to view the home industries or hall section as having huge potential – it doesn't matter what part of the country you are in, almost every member of the public who attends a show would have the ability to bake, brew, grow, sew, knit, draw, paint or photograph something. Perhaps that is the greatest opportunity to grow engagement with the movement, springboard off that accessibility of entry by linking it to rural themes. And working with local community groups, aged care and school groups etc to help them participate.

It is however possible, especially noting that the competitions are still largely recognisable from 100 years ago, that some other sections may not build. It may be that we find that our future shows are a locally suited, rural based educational and interactive days out. Maybe whereas the A&P being originally the best place to showcase your own animal to other breeders, its now more an exhibition, with a small competition often focused on specific breeds and interest groups rather than the more generic livestock showing classes. I'm going to invite you to open your minds over the course of today to consider what that might look like. I'm also going to invite you to consider what we as a movement and you as a representative of whatever organisation brings you here, will do next to keep on showcasing rural excellence if your current challenges continue.

Just as we will look back 100 years to celebrate our centenary and where we have come from, we must look forward to the next 100 years. What will they bring, what legacy do we want to leave, what do you want your children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren to inherit in terms of the showing movement?

Let's make sure we have a strong showing movement to pass to the next generation or two to enjoy. Whatever that may look like.

Ngā mihi nui and have a great conference. I look forward to further celebrating our centenary with you.

EQUESTRIAN BREEDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



Sunday 9 June 2024 at 8am, Hotel Elms, Christchurch

ATTENDANCE:

Breed Delegates: Leigh Taylor (Chair/Side Saddle/MND Manager), Sarah Fitzgerald (Pony Breeders), Ange Henskes (Pony Breeders), Melissa Jebson (National Judges Convenor/Malvern/Standardbred), Emmy Maxwell (Gypsy Cob), Pippa Newby (Gypsy Cob), Jaime Winter (Clydesdale), Bernadette Woffeden (Shetland Pony Breeders).

Also, in attendance were:

Executive: Rachel Walker (President/Otago-Taieri), Ben Burgess (Executive / UBS Chair), Sophie Holst.

Committees: Helena McLeod-Niven (HSCEX Chair), Christine Roberts (Operations Manager/Oxford).

Members: Paula Bell (Southland), Heather Brake (Rotorua), Maureen Chamberlain (Southern Canterbury), Georgina Day (SD Rural Ambassador), Lorraine Gardner (Cheviot), Steph Gowing (Whangarei/Kumeu/Helensville), Merran Hain (Poverty Bay), Richard Holst (Franklin), Fe Howie (Upper Clutha), Nicky Hutchinson (Hon. Life Member), Vicki Jagersma (WD Chair/Stratford), Chris Mason (ND Chair/Hon.Life Member), Duncan McArthur (CD Council/Temuka-Geraldine), Bruce McRobbie (MND Chair/Morrinsville), Melanie Morris (Northern), Diane Neumann (Bay of Islands), Michelle Radford (Stratford), Caitlin Rhodes (CD Rural Ambassador), Christine Rowe (ED Chair), Phillippa Sanders (Mackenzie), Paul Vanner (Stratford), and Stephen Vince (Stratford).

1	Welcome	Discussion - Action
	Rachel Walker – RAS President	Opened the meeting with a Karakia. Warm welcome extended by the President to meeting attendees.

2	Chair of Meeting	Discussion - Action
	Leigh Taylor – Equestrian Breeds Chair	Welcome from the Chair, to the 2024 Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting.

3	Apologies	Discussion - Action
3.1	Andrea Thomson (NZ Donkey and Mule Society) Julie Defilippi (NZ Standardbred); Michelle Mair (Pony Breeders Society)	Decision: THAT the apologies as listed in 3.1 be received.
		Moved: H McLeod Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED

4	Conflict of Interest	Discussion - Action
		No conflict of interest was declared.

5	Standard follow up items	Discussion - Action
5.1	Confirmation of 25 June 2023 Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting Minutes.	Decision: THAT the Minutes of 25 June 2023 Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.
		Moved: M Jebson Seconded: S Holst CARRIED
5.2	Matters arising from Minutes (not on Agenda)	No matters arising.
5.3	General Business added to the Agenda	No further General Business noted.

6 Reports		Discussion - Action
6.1	Equestrian Breeds Chairperson	<p>Circulated in Agenda and again in these Minutes – see page 11.</p> <p>Decision: THAT the Equestrian Breeds Chairperson’s 2023.2024 Annual Report be received.</p> <p>Moved: L Taylor Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED</p>
6.2	Affiliated Equestrian Breed Societies Annual Reports 6.2.1 Clydesdale Horse Society 6.2.2 Connemara Pony Soc.of NZ 6.2.3 Donkey and Mule Soc.of NZ 6.2.4 Irish Draught Horse Society of NZ 6.2.5 Morgan Horse Assn. of NZ 6.2.6 National Miniature Horse Society of NZ 6.2.7 NZ Arabian Horse Breeders Society 6.2.8 NZ Golden Horse Society 6.2.9 NZ Gypsy Cob Association 6.2.10 NZ Miniature Horse Soc. 6.2.11 NZ Pinto Horse Society 6.2.12 NZ Shetland Pony Breed. 6.2.13 NZ Standardbred Breeders Association 6.2.14 Welsh Pony and Cob Soc.	<p>Breed Societies delegates were all asked for a written report – see pages 11-16.</p> <p>Report received post Agenda.</p> <p>Decision: THAT the affiliated Equestrian Breed Societies Annual Reports as tabled, be received.</p> <p>Moved: M Jebson Seconded: B Woffenden CARRIED</p>

7 Correspondence		Discussion - Action
7.1	Shetland Pony Genetics Society	<p>Application for affiliation.</p> <p>The application for affiliation was denied by the Executive due to members voting in 2010...</p> <p>RAS Rules and Regulations: 62. As per Gazette (200) 2010 – <i>‘The RAS henceforward will not approve or ratify any multiple breed affiliations from any Breed Society or organization whatsoever not currently affiliated to the RAS.’</i></p>

8 General Business		Discussion - Action
8.1	NZ Riding Pony	<p>Judging criteria of the First Ridden & Lead Rein classes. This has been rectified: Judging criteria - 60% safety, suitability and temperament / 40% conformation and paces, with the emphasis on quality.</p> <p>Meeting expressed concern that many equestrian breed societies had not submitted their annual report.</p> <p>Action: THAT the Chair follows up with the Breed Societies to ensure reports are submitted for 2025 Conference.</p>

9	Election of Chairperson	Discussion - Action
9.1	Equestrian Breeds Chairperson.	<p>Mrs Leigh Taylor (co-opted in 2023)</p> <p>Mrs Taylor put her name forward for election. Nominator One: John Hair (NZ Standardbred Society) Nominator Two: Helena McLeod (Irish Horse Society)</p> <p>Mrs Taylor's nomination will go through to the Annual General Meeting for ratification.</p>

13	Close	Discussion - Action
		Meeting declared closed at 8.10am.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Equestrian Breeds Chairperson – Leigh Taylor

I would like to thank the RAS Executive for co-opting me into this role after the 2023 AGM.

As an active competitor in both a Breed Society and a Kindred Society I have attended a number of shows this past season including Horowhenua A, P and I (Levin) Royal and Landrover Horse of the Year.

A recent Zoom meeting of Breeds and Kindreds highlighted a not particularly positive experience at HOY 2024 for their respective sections.

I have received feedback from Breeds and Kindreds that they are coming across show schedules that are not correct. Breeds and Kindreds have been reminded to update their show schedules and judges list which are found on the RAS website. However, Member shows are reminded that Breeds and Kindreds must approve their individual schedules, please email your schedules through to the email listed on the RAS website. RAS Head Office only approves the Showing classes.

Thank you for your support in my first year as Chair and I look forward to working with everyone in the upcoming season.

6.2 Affiliated Breed Societies

6.2.1 Clydesdale Horse Society – No report received.

6.2.2 Connemara Pony Society of NZ – No report received.

6.2.3 Donkey and Mule Society of NZ – Andrea Thomson

The Donkey & Mule Society had markedly fewer donkeys showing in some regions this season. However, the numbers were still strong in Auckland, Canterbury and Otago. We were invited to Te Kauwhata A & P Show and had a very good turnout of donkeys and mules The society's own South Island Show in Christchurch had a large turnout as did the society's show in Auckland.

The Western and Eastern Districts had donkeys at only one show, the Horowhenua Royal Show, where a special effort was made to ensure donkeys were present. A quality line up was presented for judging. Donkey numbers were also small in Southland.

The society ran its Virtual Show for the third time this year and there were 96 donkeys entered with all seven donkey breeds in NZ represented. Eleven mules were entered, both pony and hack mules. An Australian Judge is judging the show.

The Donkey & Mule Society has completed the amalgamation of its General and Miniature Registers with 5688 records onto the new platform Breedmate. Work still has to be done to check records and to add photographs of donkeys where we have them. Due to the Virtual shows and our production of a show booklet each year (which contains all show results for the season and photographs of major winners) we have a strong resource of photographs to populate the new register. Photographs of donkeys will print out on registration certificates several generations back if the photographs are held. We have been fortunate in having our member Peter Heffernan oversee and do major work on the Register project and our Registrar Peter van Dijk has, and will yet, spend many hours correcting and

updating records post amalgamation. It will soon be possible for members to register and transfer donkeys and mules online. This which will speed up the process as well as making it more efficient.

6.2.4 Irish Draught Horse Society of NZ – Helena McLeod Niven (President)

Another good year for our society with Irish Horse classes be offered at several events around the county, particularly with the Royal Show at Horowhenua in January and the Masterton Showing champs in February. I am north island based so it was so great to get along and support these classes and the numbers attending were impressive and all the exhibits were a credit to their owners and breeders.

We lost a dear member in April, Tamzin Paterson. Tamzin Imported several purebred mares into NZ and was a council member until her sickness made it too difficult, her contribution to the purebred Irish Draught Horse in NZ has been immense and very much appreciated. She will be remembered fondly by those who knew her.

We have recently updated our logo to make it easier for putting onto merchandise so keep a look out for our simple, modern design. A massive thank you to our council that volunteer their time and our office holders who put in hours of dedication to promote our breed and keep our society flourishing, our financial position has never looked better and our memberships and registrations continue to rise.

We are still very grateful to the RAS and enjoy the opportunity to submit remits and vote on any remits that are put forward for the betterment of the showing movement. Our points competition for the 2023/24 season will be open soon for entries from across all disciplines and we look forward to showcasing our winners.

6.2.5 Morgan Horse Association of NZ - No report received.

6.2.6 National Miniature Horse Society of NZ – No report received.

6.2.7 NZ Arabian Horse Society – Lee Cox (President)

This year has flown by with a steady list of achievements along the way. A new NZAHS Secretary was appointed this year. We are thrilled to welcome Lorraine Gardener into the role. Lorraine is highly skilled and organised and will be an asset to the Society once all our processes have been learnt. Thank you to Mark and Melanie for going through the very time-consuming application and interview process to make sure we got the very best person for the position.

The Taranaki Arabian Horse Club did a brilliant job of hosting the North Island Arabian Championships and the NZ National Arabian Titles Show in February. Pleasingly there was significant growth in the numbers and this year there were 14 exhibits vying for the Mare Championship.

We had an invitational team compete at the Australian Arabian National Championships in March with truly outstanding results. Bella and Amy Vujcich and Alexi Thomas flew the Kiwi flag and came home with eight Australian National Titles and five Top 5 Awards. While this success is of course due to these extremely talented riders, the logistics and organisation required is an absolute credit to Angela. This is the third time Angela has headed a very successful team across the Tasman during her time on Council. The pedigree database and the pedigree app have had some major enhancements this year. Roll of Merit has been added to both the desktop pedigree database and the android pedigree app. The desktop version via the quick find search has been upgraded to include sire and dam. These reports which were only viewable onscreen are now available to download into an Excel document. The pedigree is also printable. If you are having problems accessing this, please ask. This is an excellent resource particularly for breeders and pedigree buffs, but also a very handy tool for all members.

After a successful Judges Seminar in Canterbury we held a second Judges seminar and qualification for North Island participants in Te Awamutu adding new names to the judges list.

An updated 2024 Stud Directory has been completed, this had a 1st March deadline, and submissions were still trickling in throughout April. We try to include as many members as possible, but it helps if people could abide by the deadline dates please.

The fourth Flying Horse Arabians in Dressage Series has just concluded. Numbers this year were a little disappointing, especially considering dressage was also offered at the National Show. There will be a fifth season, but unless supported this will be the final season it is offered. Thank you to Julia Latham, Flying Horse, Liana Erard and the section sponsors for making this event even possible.

Unfortunately, the South Island Arabian Championships was cancelled this year. Please get involved. Help on the committee, help on the day, help with fundraising, offer your admin skills for schedules and catalogues etc. There are many ways to contribute, and many hands make light work. It is the same people that organise these events year after year, but they can't do it without help and entries.

6.2.8 NZ Golden Horse Society – No report received.

6.2.9 NZ Gypsy Cob Association – Sarah Carter Hall (President)

Hi there and I hope you are all doing well! We are well into Autumn now and these crisp blue sky days with the trees displaying copper, red and yellow are just a treat!

It's been a huge year for the NZGCA and I look forward to sharing with you a summary of what we have been doing and goals we have for the future. First of all a huge thank you to our NZGCA Committee members who are all volunteers, many of whom donate huge hours to running the association. Their motivation and commitment to preserving, promoting and protecting the Gypsy Cob and Drum breed is sincerely appreciated. I would also like to thank you, our members, for your wonderful support and involvement with the NZGCA. We all share a common interest which is our love and commitment to caring for the Gypsy Cob and Drum breed, and we so appreciate you being part of the association.

Part of planning the work for 2023/2024 year, and developing future goals was organised through a strategy meeting held in June 2023. Many issues were discussed with job lists and goals created. Time was spent editing the new NZGCA handbook, and for months afterwards a huge amount of time was spent on the handbook by Tracey Wilde, Margot Wilde, Annika Jackson and Debbie Lister which we really appreciate. The handbook was a gift to our members posted in time for Christmas and is a project we can all be very proud of.

It is wonderful to see our association grow, looking at previous years there has been steady expansion of both members of the NZGCA and horses registered within it. In 2021-2022 we had 122 members, 2022-2023 we had 153 members, and now for the 2023-2024 we have 163 members. Approximate numbers of horses registered at this stage is 400 purebred, 600 partbred and 20 Drums. Detailed information on this can be found within the attached Registrar report with thanks to Margot Wilde.

I am also happy to report that the NZGCA finances are in good order. We have a strong commitment to prudent, responsible and transparent management of the NZGCA funds, as shown in our Treasurers report, with thanks to our treasurer Annika Jackson. We have endeavoured to add to our funding in various ways such as seeking sponsorships, arranging for paid advertising in the handbook, asking for show prize donations and running raffles. The NZGCA finances are now managed through Xero, rather than through Excel. Anyone who has used both systems will know this change is a big improvement. It is now much easier to set budgets, manage costs and extract reports.

Managing finances has not been the only aspect of the NZGCA that has had upgraded changes, this year has also bought about changes to the way we run numerous systems. Like Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay (I acknowledge I may be being dramatic) the NZGCA has stepped out into a brand new world too - the digital world! While I appreciate the introduction of new systems, especially going from paper based to digitally based, can be worrying, and that there may be issues we need to address as we go through this process. However, we are here to help if anyone is having issues, and we hope that eventually this change will be a huge improvement with a more streamlined approach. Particular appreciation to Debbie Lister for many hours spent on this upgrade, and also for the reorganisation of the NZGCA website which is now much easier to navigate and is looking fantastic!

The database is now held on a cloud based platform, which is much better than the PDF system we previously had. It is searchable, meaning you can find information such as relatives of your horse or horses bred by a particular stud. There is still work being done to transfer from the PDF system to the digital database system, so please have patience with registrations while this is being completed. The Registration process is now all on line too as we tie registrations into the digital database, this is going to make registering your horse faster and with less chance of information held on paper going missing or being damaged. We hope to link our database to a national database in the future, this means that if one parent of a horse is not a gypsy cob, but is registered with another breed database, that information can be entered into our database showing the full pedigree and breeding history of your horse.

Voting is now primarily online now too, the benefits of this include true anonymity on how you vote and improved accuracy of counting. The system auto counts the votes, leaving the only job for a NZGCA committee member to do is to check that each vote is from a current member.

Evo events, an online application, is now being used for both NZGCA membership and for people to enter horse related events. If you are new to using Evo events, it can seem a bit daunting, please be reassured we are very happy to talk you through any issues or let you know if additional information is required once you have submitted a registration or show entry. The advantages to using Evo events for membership is that you can review your membership status when it suits you, updating details such as

change of address or contact number if you need to. With event entries, using Evo events makes entering a show faster and easier, and you can modify your entry if needed too. Your event results remain on Evo events as a permanent record, meaning this important information is available to you whenever you need it.

It is wonderful to see people of all ages and skills enjoying their gypsy cobs in a vast array of activities. Historically, the idea that gypsy cobs and drum horses are sedate and slow was prevalent, but this view has really changed especially over the last few years. From simply enjoying these horse at home ridden or in hand, to taking up showing, dressage, show jumping, trail riding, working equitation and liberty work; the humble Gypsy Cob and Drum horses are definitely taking their rightful place as amazing, capable and multi talented horses. It is especially exciting to see our younger generation of riders pairing up with these horses and bringing in some impressive results again in an array of riding disciplines. While these breeds are still quite unusual to see at these events, these people are showcasing just how talented and versatile the breeds are.

Nicki Dalmeida and Stacy Kerrison from Bellecara Equestrian - "When we set out breeding our beloved stallion Tommy (The Loveable Rogue) our main goal was to produce fun sport horses that would endear themselves to being part of the family as well as being very competitive. Being out of action this past season has been beyond hard but watching our three current horses-in-action - Dora, Gordon and Jack - go from strength to strength has made for a pretty exciting one! Our special little mare Dora evented 2* this season (her second full season competing, after going from 80cm to 105 last season) and placed in the top 4 in each of her four starts, including a huge 4th in an FEI CCI 2*. This was the pinnacle of all we'd worked and aimed for, and to do it with our little 15.1 hh half Gypsy Cob watching her jump clear cross country each time over big tracks was indeed a highlight. We are so fortunate to have developed close friendships with owners of our Bellecara kids and their consistent updates continue to make all the tough stuff worthwhile, as is watching our kids enjoy their gypsy cobs at home both riding & driving. Looking forward to next season, where our team might look a little different but we're sure to have just as much fun!"

Georgia Allison and Sandow Jacob - "Sandow Jacob and Georgia Allison had a wonderful season. Jacob is maturing into a very consistent show hunter, with multiple wins throughout the summer being crowned Amateur and Open Showhunter at New Zealand Nationals, and helped Georgia take out the Amateur Equitation title for the season. Jacob also stepped up to 1* Eventing last month and led from start to finish for the win. Jacob is the most delightful boy, a true class clown, and much loved by everyone!"

Victoria Goodwin and Parkhill Silas - "Back in 2019 at HOY I was wandering around for the first time without a horse after saying goodbye to my show jumping days. Without realising it, I watched the sire of my future horse, Swanhaven James, compete and win and from that moment my Gypsy cob story began. Disaster struck when Covid19 hit the country and what did I do? I bought a six month old Gypsy cob colt sight unseen. This was Parkhill Silas the son of Swanhaven James and Lily May. If someone had told me about our future together, I would not have believed them as never in my life have I ever been so lucky and had a horse this successful. My top moment with him was the ridden at NZ Nationals 2024. This year was the most outstanding competition he and I had ever been in the ring with. It took my breath away as he was crowned Champion. The best decision I ever made was to start showing this incredible breed and join the NZGCA. With side saddle soon to be added to our repertoire, he is going to continue on his journey of being one hell of a horse!"

Margot Wilde and Cherrrywood Percival - "Percy (Cherrywood Cosmopolitan) and Margot Wilde completed a very successful season competing Level 2 dressage in spite of an unfortunate accident at the beginning of the season leading to the competition season starting after Christmas. At dressage events he is quite a stand out in a field of mostly large, solid coloured horses. He finished the season with a Reserve Champion Novice Young Rider at the Auckland Manukau young rider and amateur championship show, along with Bronze Novice (Level 2) champion at Dressage Waikato Premier League. He's stepping up to Level three for the coming season and continues to show people the great attitude and talent performance bred Partbred gypsy cobs can have."

Jade Graves and Chatto Creek Grace- "I have had the privilege of riding Chatto Creek Grace " Gracie" Part-bred Gypsy Cob this past season. We came home with many placings in showing and dressage. We participated in Horse of The Year 2024, coming home with placings in all the events.

She gets wonderful, encouraging comments from judges on how light and easy she makes the work look, and spectators are surprised how she is able to do a lovely test.

My preferred ride has always been a more sport horse type TB/ WB. However, Grace has shown me how versatile the breed can be, it has been a privilege to see her develop from a happy hacker into a true athlete, becoming light and more elegant with each ride. I have also had a chance to school her brother (Southstar Kit and Caboodle) he is a partbred Gypsy Cob—he is more of a sport horse type than Grace. I am very, very excited about what is in store for him. I hope to get him out to some dressage events next season and aim for HOY with him as he matures.”

Caitlin Robinson and Rosies Prince Charming - “Caitlin (15) and Princes storey started in 2022 when we purchased Prince as her first hack from the wonderful Julie Smith in Cambridge. Since then, their partnership has gone from strength to strength and they have competed all over the country. Their primary focus has been dressage, initially starting out at elementary level. They quickly moved up the dressage scale, competing at FEI junior level and currently advanced medium and are now preparing to move up to Advanced.

Highlights of dressage this year

Takapoto dressage by the lake – FEI junior test main arena (Televised)

Horse of the year – FEI junior test main arena (live streamed)

Bates National Dressage champs – FEI junior test (home international)

They placed at all these prestigious shows which is an outstanding success given the fact that prince is a Pinto but also Part bred Gypsy Cob!!

Not only content with dressage Caitlin also wanted to pursue a showing career. Their results have been nothing short of spectacular this year, their major placings as follows.

Horse of the year – Champion Ridden Part bred Gypsy Cob

Horse of the year – Reserve Champion in hand part bred Gypsy Cob

Horse of the year – Champion Ridden heavyweight pinto

Royal A & P show – Champion Ridden and in hand Gypsy Cob, champion ridden and in hand pinto, supreme pinto.

NZ national showing show – Champion led Gypsy Cob; Reserve champion ridden Gypsy Cob

After all these astounding results I’m not sure how they can top their 23/24 season but I’m sure the pair will have endless fun along the way. Rest assured Prince will make it fun and entertaining in his unique, cheeky, super cob style.”

All these amazing young people getting out with their Gypsy’s! Speaking of getting out and about, there have been some wonderful shows run by the NZGCA this year, and shows in which we have had a Gypsy cob and/or Drum ring. As the country moves past the impact of Covid19, it has been fantastic to resume events and shows which are a big part of enjoying our horses and socialising with friends and likeminded people. With the return of shows, came the return of Horse of the Year (HOY) which went off really well this year. The build up to this long missed show, the predominantly good weather, the beautifully presented grounds and well organised event made for a great week. Let’s not forget the array of horse related stores and delicious food which was in abundance!

The NZGCA gypsy cob ring at HOY ran on a sunny Thursday and had a great team behind the scenes ensuring the show went smoothly. There were a good number of entrants with family and friends present in support which made for a great social event. We had a very interesting duo showing us around at HOY this year, namely Chelsea and Gulliver! Gulliver is our NZGCA mascot and he gave Chelsea no end of mischief as they explored HOY through the week. A huge Thankyou to Chelsea and Gulliver for sharing their adventures with us which were so entertaining! HOY Gypsy cob ring entrants and their horses had made a huge effort to look their best, and it was clear many had put in a great deal of practice and time. We were fortunate to have Beverley Moore as our judge who lives in UK and breeds and shows Gypsy cobs. Her knowledge about this breed is extensive and her interest and affection for them very apparent. Beverley has also taken part in the Royal Windsor Show in the grounds of Windsor Castle, Berkshire, UK. It was absolutely amazing to have her at HOY as our judge. Congratulations to all who took part in the show and we hope to see you all again, and more of you, at HOY next year.

As we move into the 2024/25 year, future goals are being developed and focused on. We look forward to officially putting our committee at our upcoming AGM. One of the major tasks we need to achieve is adapting our current constitution to ensure it is in line with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This is a legal requirement to be met by 2025 and essentially puts in place a legal framework to guide the way in which societies must be run and operated.

Improved coordination of shows which the NZGCA runs or has rings in is also an important goal. Setting appropriate dates which avoid other related events, and improving communication with groups planning shows to arrange NZGCA taking part is essential. Careful consideration regarding the date and location of shows to help ensure gypsy cob showing enthusiasts all over New Zealand can attend shows, and that these shows have a sustainable number of entries is also important.

A planning and strategy NZGCA committee weekend is being arranged within the next few months so that other goals can be further developed and discussed, and achieved by dates set. We hope that as your committee we can continue to run the NZGCA professionally, communicate well with you our members, and protect and promote these amazing animals.

6.2.10 NZ Miniature Horse Society - No report received.

6.2.11 NZ Pinto Horse Society – Julie Pascoe (Secretary)

The NZ Pinto Horse Society has gone from strength to strength every year, with a steady number of members joining annually and this year we reached the milestone of having over 3000 Pinto's registered in New Zealand.

I would like to extend thanks to all the shows that have chosen to include Pinto's in their schedule of classes at their show. We are grateful for this and hope our ongoing sponsorship which we have increased for the upcoming season goes some way into helping you provide these classes. We have a good spread of shows that include us throughout New Zealand. However, if any other A&P shows who would like to add a Pinto section, we are happy to offer sponsorship towards this.

Over the last two seasons we have trailed the conformation classes in the Pinto section split by weight rather than height or type. As Pinto's are so varied a show horse, hunter, cob and riding horse could all be in the same height class, which can be tricky for judges. We have split the categories into Lightweight/Middleweight and Heavyweight and so far, we have found this change to be very popular with our Pinto competitors.

Land Rover Horse of the Year ran a Pinto section which was greatly received by competitors. The day went well with plenty of beautiful inhand and ridden Pinto horses and ponies on display. We also ran our own North and South Island Pinto Championship shows. We would like to thank the NZ National Horse and Pony Show for again including us combined with their own Pinto section. The day ran very smoothly considering it runs as a slightly different format to any other show we run.

6.2.12 NZ Shetland Pony Breeders - No report received.

6.2.13 NZ Standardbred Breeders Association – Julie DeFilippi (Delegate)

To begin, we would like to take the time to thank all shows that host our breed and for your continued support providing quality classes for HOY. We look forward to this continuing in the coming season along with our sponsorship to you all.

Anecdotally, this season's entries have been on the light side with the cost of living starting to bite, but our section still had good entries at the long-awaited Horse of the Year Show.

While we are not here to tell shows and officials what to do, we would like to remind them, it would be appreciated if the Stewards guide (that we send to every show running our section) – could be passed onto the ring Stewards. We realise our Stewards are volunteers and this help sheet has been put together for them to better understand the job and to ensure cards are signed correctly etc, so competitors do not end up with wins signed in the wrong section. We would hope with this being available to our stewards, it would make their jobs much clearer and easier to navigate.

We would also like to reiterate that your Shows are our breeds qualifiers for Horse of the Year. Therefore, we do expect the competitors are asked to perform & execute all three gaits (walk, trot & canter) on both reins as this is required at HOY in our breeds workouts.

Lastly, thank you to NZSBA, particularly Mr John Mooney for his support and who makes all our sponsorships available.

6.2.14 Welsh Pony and Cob Society - No report received.

EQUESTRIAN (MAIN) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



Sunday 9 June 2024 at 8.11am, Hotel Elms, Christchurch

ATTENDANCE:

Executive: Rachel Walker (President/Otago-Taieri), Ben Burgess (Executive / UBS Chair), Sophie Holst .

Committees: Christine Roberts (Operations Manager/Oxford).

Members: Helena McLeod-Niven (HSCEX Chair), Paula Bell (Southland), Heather Brake (Rotorua), Maureen Chamberlain (Southern Canterbury), Georgina Day (SD Rural Ambassador), Lorraine Gardner (Cheviot), Steph Gowing (Whangarei/Kumeu/Helensville), Merran Hain (Poverty Bay), Richard Holst (Franklin), Fe Howie (Upper Clutha), Sarah Fitzgerald (Pony Breeders), Ange Henskes (Pony Breeders), Nicky Hutchinson (Hon. Life Member), Vicki Jagersma (WD Chair/Stratford), (Melissa Jebson (National Judges Convenor/Malvern/Standardbred), Chris Mason (ND Chair/Hon.Life Member), Emmy Maxwell (Gypsy Cob), Duncan McArthur (CD Council/Temuka-Geraldine), Bruce McRobbie (MND Chair/Morrinsville), Melanie Morris (Northern), Diane Neumann (Bay of Islands), Pippa Newby (Gypsy Cob), Michelle Radford (Stratford), Caitlin Rhodes (CD Rural Ambassador), Christine Rowe (ED Chair), Phillippa Sanders (Mackenzie), Leigh Taylor (Chair/Side Saddle/MND Manager), Paul Vanner (Stratford), and Stephen Vince (Stratford), Jaime Winter (Clydesdale), Bernadette Woffeden (Shetland Pony Breeders).

1	Welcome	Discussion - Action
	Rachel Walker – RAS President	Welcome extended in the previous Breeds Meeting.

2	Chair of Meeting	Discussion - Action
	Helena McLeod-Niven – Equestrian Horse Council Executive Chair	Welcome from the Chair, who opened the 2024 Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting at 8.11am.

3	Apologies	Discussion - Action
3.1	Andrea Thomson (Donkey & Mule), Julie Defilippi (Standardbred); Michelle Mair (Pony Breeders), Maxine Mulligan (ED Judges Convenor), Kristine Russell (SD Judges Convenor), Alan Windle (WD Judges Convenor).	Decision: THAT the apologies as noted in 3.1 be received.
		Moved: M Jebson Seconded: S Gowing CARRIED

4	Conflict of Interest	Discussion - Action
		No conflict of interest declared.

5	Standard follow up items	Discussion - Action
5.1	Confirmation of 25 June 2023 Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting Minutes	Decision: THAT the Minutes of 25 June 2023 Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.
		Moved: H McLeod-Niven Seconded: M Hain CARRIED
5.2	Matters arising from Minutes (not on Agenda)	No matters arising.
5.3	General Business added to the Agenda	1. Novice Sections. 2. Equestrian Rulebook Working Group.

6	Reports	Discussion - Action
6.1	Horse Stewards Council Chair	Circulated and Tabled – see page 23.. Decision: THAT the Horse Stewards Council Chairperson’s 2023.2024 Annual Report be received.
		Moved: H McLeod-Niven Seconded: S Gowing CARRIED
6.2	Affiliated Equestrian Societies 6.2.1 NZ Carriage Driving Society 6.2.2 NZ Equestrian Pleasure Soc. 6.2.3 NZ Riding Pony Society 6.2.4 NZ Side Saddle Association 6.2.5 Pony Breeders Society of NZ	Affiliated Societies delegates were all asked for a written report - see page 23 -24. Decision: THAT the affiliated Equestrian Societies tabled reports be received.
		Moved: S Gowing Seconded: L Taylor CARRIED
6.3	Districts Horse Stewards Chairperson's Reports 6.3.1 Northern – <i>No separate Chair</i> 6.3.2 Mid Northern 6.3.3 Eastern – <i>No separate Chair</i> 6.3.4 Western – <i>No separate Chair</i> 6.3.5 Central 6.2.6 Southern	See pages 24-26. Decision: THAT the Mid-Northern, Central, and Southern Districts Horse Stewards Chairperson’s Annual Reports as tabled be received.
		Moved: M Jebson Seconded: G Day CARRIED
6.4	Clean Sport 6.4.1 National Clean Sport Convenor	See page 26. Decision: THAT the National Clean Sport Convenor’s report as tabled, be received.
		Moved: L Taylor Seconded: F Howie CARRIED
6.5	Equine Health	See page 26. Decision: THAT the Equine Health Representative’s Annual report as tabled be received.
		Moved: H McLeod-Niven Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED
6.6	Horse of the Year 2024	See page 27. Decision: THAT the Horse of the Year 2024 report as tabled be received.
		Moved: H McLeod-Niven Seconded: R Walker CARRIED
6.7	Judges	
6.7.1	National Judges Convenor	See pages 27-28 Decision: THAT the National Judges Convenor’s Annual report as tabled be received.
		Moved: M Jebson Seconded: L Taylor CARRIED
6.7.2	District Judge Convenors 6.7.2.a Northern	See pages 28-31.

	6.7.2.b Mid-Northern 6.7.2.c Eastern 6.7.2.d Western 6.7.2.e Central 6.7.2.f Southern	Decision: THAT the Districts Judge Convenor's Annual reports as tabled be received.
		Moved: M Jebson Seconded: L Taylor CARRIED
6.8	Measuring	
	6.81 National Measuring Convenor	See page 31. Decision: THAT the National Measuring Convenor's Annual report as tabled be received.
		Moved: R Walker Seconded: B Burgess CARRIED
6.9	Youth Equestrian Team	No Tri-Nation's Equestrian Youth Team Event took place in 2023.2024.

7	Personnel	Discussion - Action
7.1	Clean Sport	
	7.1.1 Stewards	RAS Executive review's any recommendations on a case-by-case basis.
7.2	Judges	Names of New/Upgraded Judges, and new Tutor Graded Judges tabled.
	7.2.1 Northern	Grade 3: Grace Adnitt, Jeanette McGregor, Tina Portanger, Gaylene Stanaway-Dreadon. Grade 2-1: Deborah Dixon, John Fleet
	7.2.2 Mid-Northern	None noted.
	7.2.3 Eastern	None noted.
	7.2.4 Western	Working Hunter/Hunter Jumping: Nicole Macdonald
	7.2.5 Central	Grade 3: Jan Colenso, Janet Fleming, Fliss Grant. Grade 3 - 2: Catherine Ford. Grade 2 - 1: Bronwyn Baird, Nichola Hamburger, Marie Milliken.
	7.2.6 Southern	Grade 2 – 1: Tryphena Carter, Julieanne Baynes.
		Decision: THAT the above names and their Grades as noted be acknowledged.
		Moved: M Jebson Seconded: S Gowing CARRIED
7.3	Measuring	
	7.3.1 Measuring Inspectors	RAS Executive will review the District's nominations, and anything resulting from conference, at their next meeting.
	7.3.2 Measuring Stewards	RAS Executive will review the District's nominations, and anything resulting from conference, at their next meeting.

8	Fees and Levies	Discussion - Action
8.1	Equestrian Levies	<p>Equestrian Levies collected for 2023.2024 Show season tabled – see page 32.</p> <p>Those Shows yet to pay their levies have been followed up numerous times. Payments received post Agenda include...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cambridge A&P Assn: \$1953 paid on 4 June 2024 - Masterton A&P Assn: \$1064 paid on 5 June 2024. - Strath Taieri Assn: \$535 paid on 19 June 2024

9	Correspondence	Discussion - Action
9.1	MOU between Companion Animals NZ and NZ Equine Health -	<p>Equine Identification Traceability System (EITS) see <i>pgs 33-34</i></p> <p>HSC Executive – met earlier in the day with a representative from Companion Animals. They currently run Microchipping days with your local vet, which could also be held at Stands Measuring Days. More information from them will be forthcoming.</p>

10	General Business	Discussion - Action
10.1	Remits Results – #1 to #23	Results of Equestrian Remits were announced - all voting forms were counted by a Justice of the Peace.
	1. Age of Riders – <i>rewording of rule for riders riding horses.</i>	64 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	2. Age of Riders and Handlers – <i>Breed/Kindred section ages differ from those of RAS showing.</i>	48 FOR / 17 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	3. Breed and Kindred Societies – <i>adding the words 'and kindred'</i>	66 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	4. Clarification of Rules – <i>adding the words 'and kindred'.</i>	65 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	5. Life Measures – <i>no shoes need to be removed if horse/pony has 3 consecutive measures from the age of 8yrs for a LM.</i>	37 FOR / 28 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	6. Whip Lengths – <i>noting the lengths of all whip types.</i>	60 FOR / 5 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	7. Youngstock Measures – <i>adding the word 'horse' to rule M9.</i>	56 FOR / 9 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	8. Clean Sport – <i>blood sample to be taken by a reg. Vet, licensed large animal practice Nurse or Technician.</i>	59 FOR / 8 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	9. Horse/Ponies Presented – <i>with true & correct markings as per h/c</i>	34 FOR / 30 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	10. Exhibitors/Owners/Competitors/Judges – <i>adding the words 'vice-versa' to rule EEFSL 7. and J25.</i>	66 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	11. Hunter Jumping Horses – <i>Open Hunter Class only eligible for Championship.</i>	54 FOR / 10 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - PASSED

	12. One Stride Double – <i>reducing maximum from 10m to 9.5m for horses.</i>	33 FOR / 32 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	13. Riders – <i>updating wording of classes.</i>	61 FOR / 4 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	14. Removal of Obstructions – <i>show/event adding rules.</i>	11 FOR / 54 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	15. Judges Decision – <i>bringing rule J19 in to GR 3 section.</i>	61 FOR / 5 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	16. Nominated Section not offered – <i>you may enter another section at a show other than what is classified on your h/c.</i>	27 FOR / 37 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	17. Consistency – <i>removal of examples.</i>	26 FOR / 38 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	18. Novice Classes – <i>MSS to have only one Novice class and no Championship.</i>	50 FOR / 14 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	19. Youngstock measures – <i>add 'horse' to rule.</i>	61 FOR / 4 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	20. Foals Exempt – <i>foals 6mths and under do not need a h/c.</i>	64 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	21. Person Responsible Classification – <i>18yrs and over and responsibility & liability of animal.</i>	64 FOR / 3 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	22. Horses Over 168cm – <i>life measures do not need to have shoes removed.</i>	61 FOR / 4 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	23. Calibration of Measuring Stands – <i>increasing the calibration from 2yrs to 5yrs.</i>	20 FOR / 37 AGAINST / 4 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	10.1.1 One Stride Double – <i>reducing maximum from 10m to 9.5m for horses.</i>	<p>Concerns were expressed regarding Remit #12 which was voted in favour of, by one vote.</p> <p>Comments from the meeting included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Odd distance noted – and a dangerous new maximum distance. - It is a distance versus height, commonsense prevails. - Shows who have larger fences, it is going to be very dangerous. - Current distance (10m) in the rulebook is a maximum distance, and it is dependent on the grounds, fences and weather as to the appropriate distance. <p>Note: The Executive can override any Remit that has passed or failed, where there are animal welfare or health and safety reasons. It is the preference of the Executive that they only consider going against a member vote based on a member instigated request to do so.</p> <p>Decision: THAT the Executive considers the result of Remit #12 as those present in this meeting consider that there is a health</p>

		and safety risk to the result and it should not be implemented.
		Moved: L Taylor Seconded: M Hain CARRIED
		Meeting voting unanimous in this decision.
10.2	Riders who fall from their mount at affiliated Shows/Events	<p>Concern was brought through from the Bi-Annual Tutor Judges Meeting regarding riders who fall from their mount. They felt that the RAS should be applying the ESNZ rule ie riders must be checked out by medics before they can continue to ride their mount.</p> <p>RAS has circulated (as well as can be downloaded from the website) the following 'rider fall' template card.</p> <p><i>Dear Rider, Parent/Guardian of a Rider</i></p> <p><i>We have witnessed you/your child having a fall. We strongly recommend you/your child seek a first-aid check before continuing to ride.</i></p> <p><i>The first aid vehicle is _____ on the grounds or can be called down by the stewards.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you _____ Assn/Soc.</i></p> <p>Some concern was expressed about deciding on a policy without members having an opportunity to be involved in its development. The above card remains available to use this year while a strengthened approach is developed.</p> <p>Decision: A remit should be socialised and prepared for the conference next year along the lines of ESNZ rules that when a rider fall from their mount they must be checked out by a medic before they can remount.</p>
		Moved: M Jebson <i>Decision lapse due to no seconder</i>
10.3	Novice Sections	A sub-committee is looking to just have a Rising Start class at Shows to alleviate those novices going through to the open classes too quickly. More information will be forwarded when received from the committee.
10.4	Rulebook Working Group	<p>Discussion on the purpose of the Working Group. When it was set up, some people thought that it was a group to re-vamp the whole rulebook.</p> <p>No feedback from the meeting noted.</p> <p>The HSC Executive resolved that the Working Group continue to look any revisions needed.</p>

11	Election of Officers	Discussion - Action
		Action: All nominations will go through to the Annual General Meeting.
11.1	Chairperson	Ms Helena McLeod – term remains current.

11.2	National Clean Sport Convenor	Mrs Maxine Mulligan – term remains current.
11.3	National Judges Convenor	Mrs Melissa Jebson – term remains current.
11.4	National Measuring Convenor	Mr Rick Croft (co-opted in 2023) One Nomination Received – Mr Rick Croft Nominator One: Anne Holst (Helensville A&P) Nominator Two: David Van Dam (Helensville A&P) Mr Croft's nomination will go through to the Annual General Meeting for ratification.

12	Close	Discussion - Action
		The Chair thanked all for attending.
		Meeting declared closed at 8.50am.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Horse Stewards Chairperson's Report – Helena McLeod Niven

Another good year in the position, with some positive changes and engagement from the equestrian community. There have been some fresh competitors get on board with some committees across the county.

Its great to see a new wave of volunteers so they can see the hard work that goes on behind the scenes and appreciate that there is more to putting on a show than just what happens on Show Day. I commend all the new people putting their hands up.

Another lot of Remits are out again this year and there was a lot of interest for involvement on the rule book working group committee. Again, more positive steps in the right direction for the showing movement.

I was honoured to be a judge at the NZ Land Rover Horse of the Year in March and what a pleasure it was. There was an incredible bunch of people from NZ, Australia and the UK on the judges panel and it was a privilege to judge alongside them. There is not enough credit given to the very small committee that represent the RAS at this prestigious show and I am going to name the stand out members of this committee as they are Volunteers who give up their time over a very long week, not to mention the prep that goes into making it all happen leading up the event of the season. Cara O'Connor, Maxine Mulligan, Gerald Birdsall, Wendy Collin along with RAS's only employee Christine Roberts (who should really be referred to as Super Woman), you all worked so well together, and the RAS and HOY are very lucky to have you.

I look forward to catching up with some of you at conference in June.

6.2 Affiliated Equestrian Societies

6.2.1 NZ Carriage Driving Society – no report received.

6.2.2 NZ Equestrian Pleasure Society – Leeanne Morrison (President)

The society enjoyed a successful year with good up take of membership and show affiliation. We held our north Island National title at the National Horse and Pony show and this was a great event! We look forward to being involved going forward. As part of giving our members value for their membership we have introduced the Best registered combination as compulsory class at shows. We supply the ribbons for this class to the shows. Also have added some new regional points prizes along side our high points. It was good to have a season that went smoothly without the restrictions and weather events of the last few years.

6.2.3 NZ Riding Pony Society – Alan Winde (President)

The NZRPS has had a solid year and lovely to see the shows back in full swing and the beautiful registered NZRPS ponies winning major awards through out the country, our patronage was well received at shows and our show case awards being held at the NZ Agricultural show and HOY. Entries have been down but this is certainly a common trend and continues with the huge costs involved in showing. Our classifiers in both Islands have been busy admitting stock into the stud book. Our AGM was held in Christchurch this year where we were delighted to have Roger James Race Horse extraordinaire trainer as our guest speaker at our meetings. Sadly our annual Riding Pony show was cancelled this year due to a sign of the times but we hope to have it back next season. I would personally like to thank our hard work secretary/treasurer all my councillors and office holders for the amount of input they all put in making this the desirable Stud Book society that it is.

6.2.4 NZ Side Saddle – Leigh Taylor (President)

It is with pleasure that I present my President's report for the 2023/24 season.

We started the season in the North Island with a group of ladies attending Equifest in Taupo to showcase Side Saddle to the Equestrian public. We had three demonstrations where the riders highlighted dressage and jumping. The demonstration on Saturday was very well received. The timing of the demos on Friday and Sunday meant that we didn't have the same audiences.

Horowhenua A,P and I (Levin) hosted a Royal Show in January 2024 and we had five riders attending. Libby Plummer was our Champion with Jenny Pearce Reserve.

Six riders attended Landrover Horse of the Year including one from the South Island. Jenny took the title and Libby runner up.

Shows around the country have had varied entries but from the photos that I have seen and reports that I have heard there has been good quality and great riding.

It is great to see some new members coming through which includes some very keen junior riders. This bodes well for the future of side saddle in New Zealand.

Looking forward to the 2024/25 side saddle season.

6.2.5 Pony Breeders Society of NZ – Michelle Mair (Secretary)

Congratulations to RAS reaching 100 years. Hope you are all enjoying the conference.

Our membership is about the same with a few new members joining this year along with registrations and new stud prefixes also. This is very pleasing to see. Most of our newsletters have gone out via emails to keep most of our members up to date with information along with the use of Facebook. We are looking after our honouree life and life members with posting them a paper copy to keep them up to date and a way to say thank you for the service and support over the years.

We would like to congratulate the winners of our lovely sashes. Congratulations to Horowhenua AP&I for hosting the Royal Show. Big task on a small area. Thank you to the A&P shows for supporting our sash classes and the volunteers who make the shows happen and work behind the scenes organising.

We wish you all the best for the coming season.

6.3 Districts Equestrian Chairperson Reports

6.3.2 Mid Northern – Louellen Davies

With the close of our 2023 -2024 season, one thing is reiterated over and over again, our competitors want to show so badly. There is still those who prefer showing to other events.

Although shows have had varied attendances which were spread across most sections, the atmosphere was great.

The season gone has brought to the fore many events of a gymkhana nature which is giving riders a varied choice, the odd show has opted for this format as well. With the holding of the Cambridge show it was commented that there were five other events riders could go to the same day. Competitors are becoming more selective, the cost of fuel a big factor and in some cases opting to go to a more relaxed event. The RAS shows are very aware of making the cost of competing as reasonable as possible, however we need to remember that other events are more expensive than our shows.

Throughout the season I was fortunately enough to judge on several occasions, although some classes were not well attended the quality was present.

Mid Northern had several judges upgrade this last season which was great to see. Judges at times seem few and far between, once again shows do rotate judges that are within reasonable travelling distance, as always due to a matter of cost.

Our judges do a wonderful job travelling near and far judging classes, some which qualify for the Horse of the Year Show. It is our New Zealand judges that certify those competitors for this prestigious show, how wonderful to see it up and running.

I would like to thank Jocelyn Charleston for her expertise and commitment to the role of Tutor Judges Convenor, a role from which she has retired from. Always available to answer questions and mentor new judges. More time to spend with your sheep now Jocelyn.

Our committees are seeing less of the young we need to sustain our organisation, although this situation is the same throughout other clubs and societies. What do we do? Something we ask on a regular basis, this is the new generation. They are not of us; they have an attitude of expectance and need to be entertained as well. Doing everything the same way has the same result, so how do we change. The format of our shows needs to change. How? Do we have more fun sections, pony club sections, games, pony scurries who knows, but we are very open to suggestion.

It is noticed that our group of lead rein riders have moved onto the first ridden section in the Mid Northern District creating a bit of a gap in the lead rein classes. These young riders are showing such great promise.

The accumulator competition run a few seasons ago, although a trial, was very well attended and Mid Northern is considering holding another.

Holding a show is a big undertaking and to have cancelled the previous year, just to get up and running requires a great effort from a lot of dedicated volunteers.

Katikati show held a show this year the first since 2020 covid and ground conditions being the decider. Katikati show is the towns longest running event and was greeted with enthusiasm on its return.

Throughout the Mid Northern district our shows have done Mid Northern proud. A great atmosphere, a worthwhile event, a great day out and most of all showing our next generation that show day is fun.

Our wonderful volunteers I can never say enough. Without them there would not be any show, turning up year after year with little or no recompense. Quite often, they have no experience in the section they are helping in but are there just to do what is needed. How lucky are we.

Running a show is like having a champion Hack, you only see the finished product on show day, not the continuous hours of work behind the scenes. Why do we do it, because we love to run a great show. The local A & P Show is an integral part of the community be it rural or urban, a day a year when all can blend and have a wonderful day out, this is what we do so well, long may our shows continue to prosper.

My thanks to all

6.3.5 Central – Hamish Grigg

This year has again, been a difficult showing season for our members and exhibitors. Though there has been a feeling of starting to see the light at the end of a very long tunnel with most shows experiencing good or consistent trade, sponsorship, and visitor numbers. The financial pressures are still prevalent and especially shown in our horse competitor numbers for virtually all shows. Hopefully this will start to turn but it is more likely to stay this way till the national economic situation improves.

When I started this roll, I had no idea what to expect, so spent this year mostly listening and learning to get a feel of where I am best able to help. I hope to continue to learn and grow in this roll to best support each show.

It has been great to get around shows in the district, seeing the incredible work our Show Committees, Administrators, Volunteers and Judges do to create brilliant events. To the shows that I didn't manage to get to I hope to see you next year. We are incredibly lucky to have such a strong group of people, especially shown in the Equestrian Section, who give their time and energy year-round and for this I would like to say thank you.

6.3.6 Southern – Ian Tippett

It was great to see most shows were able to hold their annual event this season after the disruptions of the last few.

Unfortunately, the level of success in the equestrian section was mixed. In general entries were down in the classing sections, 2 or 3 only about 10 - 15% down but 1 or 2 only had about 10 - 15% of the entries they had before Covid.

These statistics point to a challenging time ahead for our shows. Thank goodness some of the other sections at some of these shows have had some increase in entries which will help.

The quality and presentation of the entries at the shows has still remained high even in the face of less competition. Thank you to those exhibitors for this.

Thank you tutor judges- group lead by Kristine Russell, you are still doing a great job of helping shows find judges and also the training of new judges. To all the volunteer people who helped as stewards etc. Thank you as our shows could not exist without your help and input.

I wish you all the best for the challenges times ahead. Don't be afraid of asking for advice, and/or helping one another out, most of us will survive one way or another.

6.4 Clean Sport

6.4.1 National Clean Sport Convenor – Maxine Mulligan

I am pleased to report that a total of 15 Clean Sport Tests have been completed this season – 6 in the South Island, and 9 in the North Island.

One North Island test is currently undergoing further Analytical processing; all other 14 tests have been clear. I am also pleased to report that the Persons Responsible (PRs) of horses/ponies tested have been very amenable and co-operative to work with. I think that most competitors are now accepting of testing as a necessary part of the showing movement; and that sooner or later, their turn will come.

We have one new testing steward in the lower North Island who has completed several tests on her own (with a witness) since sign-off at the Royal Show in January. We are very lucky to have her working with us as she is very well-qualified for the job with being the Principal Lecturer and 'Lead' of the Otago Polytechnic Rural and Large Animal Health School. She also has all the ideal attributes of a testing person – calm, pleasant, confident but tactful, and well organized with accurate attention to detail; and is independent of all but the Harness sector. I am very grateful to Steph Mann for joining our testing team and giving of her time, commitment and resources for RAS Clean Sport.

I have 2 Remits forward this year: Remit 21 aiming to further clarify the role and responsibilities of the Person Responsible (PR, as in the Rule Book) particularly in relation to Clean Sport Testing; and Remit 8 – which expands on who may take blood samples in the course of a Clean Sport Test as it is often impossible to get an on-duty vet to attend, which leads to a test having to be aborted, at some cost. Vets, especially equine or large animal vets, are in short supply throughout the country.

I thank the Shows who have had testing within their show programme, for their help and co-operation; and their personnel who have witnessed the tests. Also, a big thank you to Christine Roberts for the wonderful job that she does with testing on behalf of the RAS. She is calm, methodical, reassuring, and thorough in following due process. We are lucky to have her as a role model and tutor for future test stewards.

Clean Sport testing is a vital tool in helping to ensure fair play in our sport.

6.5 Equine Health – Cara O'Connor (RAS MPI Representative)

The last 12 months has seen the focus for NZEHA, progressing the Equine Identification and Traceability Project.

The work is ongoing, and I have attached the latest update as it better explains where NZEHA is at with it.

After the 2020 incursion of Equine Theileria, and the 2023 Gabrielle flooding disaster, it highlights how incredibly important a system like this is.

Following Gabrielle, EQuiChip (Equine Microchipping) campaign was launched successfully, and it is set to run another round of events commencing in Taupo on the 26th May 2024. Their objective is to microchip and register between 400 and 500 horses in a series of 6 community events at a very affordable rate. See attachment for more details.

6.6 Land Rover Horse of the Year – Cara O'Connor (RAS Showing Section Convenor)

After 3 years of cancellations, HOY 2024 turned out to be a cracking week of weather and a very successful show. Despite the length of time between shows, our small committee pulled together, what turned out to be one of the smoothest to date.

We were very fortunate to have 7 of our 10 judges being international which gave the competitors a great line up of fresh judges.

The weather gods played nicely, competitors were thrilled to be back at HOY and despite a couple of small glitches with power and internet, the show rolled out accurately to scheduled times, with no protests to date.

The committee are currently in discussions with HOY event managers, as part of a debrief of 2024 and forward planning for 2025.

Moving forward, as always, we have a few improvements to implement. This includes working closer with the event organisers and establishing a clear understanding of what both parties require at HOY.

HOY are currently looking at our set up and location at the show. This could be a huge bonus for RAS showing at HOY, giving us a huge area with much needed large warm up and collecting ring areas, so watch this space. It may not come to fruition; however, we have everything crossed and are forever hopeful.

6.7 Judges

6.7.1 National Judges Convenor – Melissa Jebson

Since the last Annual Report, the District Judges Convenors have had four meetings – three by Zoom and one face-to-face meeting. Currently we have just under 200 listed RAS Equestrian Judges with 183 being active on the list.

Northern: 12 (with one on leave); Mid-Northern: 25 (with 3 on leave); Eastern: 21 (with 1 on leave); Western: 23 (with 1 on leave); Central: 64 (with 2 on leave); Southern: 38 (with 2 on leave).

In July, I attended all six District Judges Seminars from Whangarei in the north to Dunedin in the south with 66% of our active Judges in attendance. One of the problems that arose during the 2022/23 showing season was the inability of some of our Judges in assessing soundness and judging accordingly. This year we concentrated on giving judges ways to recognise unsoundness and uneven gaits. We have seen some improvement but there is still more work to be done in this area. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting our Judges from around the country and discussing our sport. I thank all the District Convenors for running quality, informative and interactive Seminars for our Judges.

During the 2023-2024 Show Season, District Tutor Judges all over New Zealand have completed many assessments, progressing our Judges either onto the RAS Judges list as a new Judge or upgrading through the grades. A huge “Thank you” to all our Shows for being so helpful in assisting our Judges and Tutor Judges through the process. We had a Royal Event in Equestrian in Marlborough in November, the NZ Royal Show hosted by Horowhenua in January and the Horse of the Year in March all requiring Grade 1 Judges.

During the year I have run a few Zoom workshops (in areas that we do not currently have many Tutor Judges) to assist upgrading Judges. This has worked well with all Judges who have sat the written paper passing.

In February I accepted Jocelyn Charleston’s resignation as Mid-Northern District Judges Convenor. Jocelyn will stay on as a Tutor Judge and as a Judge. I thank Jocelyn for all the work that she has done in assisting Judges in Mid-Northern and wish her all the very best. We welcome Amanda Parkes into the role and know that she will do a great job in carrying on where Jocelyn left off.

The RAS website is working well for our Judges, and I encourage all Judges to use it, especially in finding Breed Judging criteria, Show dates and contact phone numbers plus ordering Rulebooks and Red Manuals etc. The website is extremely helpful.

Thank you to all our RAS Equestrian Judges for the work you do year after year, Show after Show. Thank you also to the District Judges Convenors who all work hard and conscientiously for your District Judges. You are all great to work with and I have enjoyed working along-side you as we assist our dedicated Judges.

A huge “Thank you” goes to Christine Roberts for all the work you do in collating our minutes, attending to Rulebook and Manual remit changes/corrections, all the extra work accompanied with written papers etc. plus keeping me ‘on track’. You are wonderful to work with and I appreciate all your assistance throughout the last 12 months.

6.7.2 District Judges' Convenors

6.7.2.a Northern – Melissa Jebson (Acting)

2024 has been a very productive one for Northern Judges. The annual Seminar was held at Whangarei A&P Rooms, Barge Park in July attracting 75% of Northern District Judges plus two competitors. This was a very productive day concentrating on conformation with an emphasis on recognizing unsoundness. It was great to see senior Judges assisting with topic presentations.

The last 12 months have seen a lot of assessments undertaken, and because of this, two Northern Judges have successfully up graded to Grade 1 and four new Judges are on the list as Grade 3 judges. One 3WT has one successful assessment to complete. My grateful thanks to the Whangarei A&P Show Committee for bringing up an extra Tutor Judge to help facilitate the bulk of assessments that needed to be completed. A trip to Central District for two Judges also assisted ticking off assessments. One Judge sat and passed the Hunter jumping/Working Hunter written paper and is halfway through the assessment requirements. Well done to all involved.

During the year all Northern District Judges have fulfilled the Charity Commission requirements. We have had to work around Road closures this autumn with the 2024 Judges Seminar set for Saturday 25th May at Barge Park in Whangarei. My thanks to Northern District Councillor Stephanie Gowing who has assisted me in facilitating assessments plus with organising the Seminar venue etc. Your help has been invaluable.

6.7.2.b Mid-Northern – Melissa Jebson in conjunction with Amanda Parkes and Jocelyn Charleston.

During the year all judges within the District have successfully completed the Charity Commission's requirements. In July the annual District Judges Seminar was held at the Waikato A&P Show Committee Room, with a major concentration on conformation and soundness. Thanks to the Waikato A&P Committee for allowing us to use their facilities for both the Seminar and a written paper day early this year.

Between September and February, I ran Zoom workshops with five Judges who wanted to upgrade. All Judges have been successful in passing the relevant written papers so will undertake the assessment requirements next season. Another Judge has passed her Hunter jumping/Working hunter written paper and is currently working through the required number of assessments.

Jocelyn Charleston resigned as Mid-Northern Judges Convenor in February due to ill-health. Thank you, Jocelyn, for all that you have done in mentoring and encouraging Judges in your District. Your judges have appreciated all that you have done. I thank Amanda Parkes for stepping up into the role. Jocelyn is happy to stay as a Judge and Tutor Judge to assist when required.

Amanda Parkes will attend the Bi-annual Tutor Judge Seminar in Palmerston North in May. The annual Judges Seminar is set for Sunday 26th May with the venue and content yet to be confirmed.

My thanks to Jocelyn and Amanda for all that they have done this year in assisting Judges, and a huge thank you to Horse Stewards Chair Louellen Davies and District Manager Leigh Taylor for the assistance you have given me over the last twelve months in managing things from afar. Thank you also to the Shows within the District who have allowed assessments to take place, assisting Judges reach their goals. Your assistance is invaluable and very much appreciated.

6.7.2.c Eastern – Maxine Mulligan

It has been a 'normal' full show season with all shows in the district going ahead.

Of concern across the whole country is the big fall-off in competitor numbers, making it very difficult for the shows to go ahead viably; with classes and sections being combined in many cases – a sign of very difficult financial times. However, the two big shows of HOY and Nationals had better entries than hoped for.

There was an issue with one show (with a new committee) appointing a non-RAS judge for their showing classes meaning that those classes would no longer qualify the winners for their HOY entries. Two of our senior judges, who were present as spectators, stepped in as replacement

judges on the day. The unfortunate appointed judge was totally unaware of the RAS Judges list and the rules.

With Alan Windle, the Western Judges Convenor, on 6 months compassionate leave during 2023, I worked with Jan Macdonald from Western in his absence, to arrange the Annual Western/Eastern Judges' Seminar at Manfeild Stadium, Fielding, on 9th July 2023. Our National Judges Convenor Melissa Jebson, & RAS Operations Manager, Christine Roberts, were both present for the day. Of our 21 judges, eleven (11)-were able to attend, with nine (9) apologies, mainly due to closed roads and conditions in the HB and Gisborne areas after cyclone Gabrielle.

Professor Chris Rogers of the Equine Vet Faculty at Massey University was our guest speaker for the afternoon on the Topic of "Conformation and Movement of the Horse in relation to Unsoundness". With the available projector refusing to work with his computer, he was unable to use his video presentation; but instead entertained us as the "horse" himself, demonstrating his points very clearly. It was very informative and well received by all.

We have again done a lot of work assessing judges from other districts while they were judging at Eastern shows throughout the season.

There are two June/July/August workshops in the planning stages within our District for potential new and interested judges from both Eastern & Western Districts, with hopefully some of them sitting their Grade 3 exam papers in August/September.

The judge who has been on 'leave of absence' has now retired, for health reasons.

I thank the Tutors who have so willingly worked with and assessed new & upgrading judges, and contributed so much to the Seminar and Workshop days.

I am grateful to Alan Windle, my fellow Western Judges' Convenor, and Western Tutor judge Jan Macdonald, in working together for most of our District 'happenings' over the year, and mutual support of each other.

I wish all our judges well for the coming show season, and thank them for their contribution to Equestrian showing by giving freely of their time and knowledge.

6.7.2.d Western – Alan Windle

Thank you to all the Tutors that carried the District while I was not in attendance due to a personal tragedy, and I thank them all for the work they put in my heartfelt thanks. The District had a very successful Seminar in my absence and it was a well attended day. This year our seminar Hosted by Eastern will be held in Western at the Massey teaching facility. We are very lucky to have a wonderful guest speaker for the day and hope for a bumper attendance from the judges. The day before at the same venue the Bi annual tutor judges day will be held for the North Island. We had a successful Tutor Judges meeting recently and Western invited Eastern to a combined meeting which was well received both Districts ratified their tutors with both have 5 the required number and each District also ratified their convenors. No changes but Western during the season added Eva Best to the Tutor role. We again are looking at workshops over the winter with a practical at the Woodville races all going well. My thanks to all my tutors and Maxine who we work in closely to combine District events . We have in Western a number of keen interested new judges and hoping they will attend the coming seminar and workshops. All the districts new judges requiring tutors beside them are now completed and all our judges now stand alone.

6.7.2.e Central – Melissa Jebson

This year the Central District Tutor Judges panel have held four Zoom meetings and one face-to-face meeting. Unfortunately, our March meeting had to be cancelled due to too many apologies.

During the season Tutor Judges have been busy assessing, plus having candidate Judges stand-in with us. Thank you to the Grade 1 Judges who have assisted with stand-ins where possible so we can facilitate more candidates. Thank you also to our District Shows who continue to make our assessments and stand-ins possible. Without your assistance we would not see our Judges progressing confidently through the process. At this stage only five of the District's 68 active Judges (93%) have not completed the Charities Commission requirements.

Unfortunately during the year, we have had five Judges resign and three Tutor Judges resign for various reasons. Rosie Grimsey resigned from both a Judge and a Tutor Judge. Rosie has been a strong supporter of our organisation as a competitor, a Judge and a Tutor Judge for many years and we wish Rosie all the best. Denise McPherson and Marg Hendy have resigned as Tutor

Judges for work and time reasons, but both are still available as Judges. Thank you to you all for your dedication and commitment to our sport over the years. This has been very much appreciated by both our competitors and our Shows.

In May we held two Workshops – one for candidate Judges and one for upgrading Judges. From this, we held our written paper day at the Darfield Library. In July we held our annual Judges Seminar at the Selwyn Equestrian Centre attracting a good percentage of our Judges. Thanks to Julie and Sue for sourcing ponies for the practical session held in the arena and to India Martin a local vet and Show rider who enlightened Judges on ways to assess soundness.

In September we held a successful Working Hunter/Hunter jumping Seminar in conjunction with the Ellesmere A&P Show's Measuring Day. Thanks to the Ellesmere Show Committee for facilitating this as a session like this worked very well with one candidate Judge going on to successfully complete her written paper in December.

This season we have seen three Judges successfully complete their assessments and come on to the Judges list as Grade 3 Judges. There have also been three completed successful Grade 1 upgrades and one successful Grade 2 upgrade. Currently we have seven active candidate judges and seven Judges wanting to upgrade. Our workshop is set for Sunday 21st April at Canterbury Park, the bi-annual Tutor Judges Seminar for Sunday 19th May in Christchurch and the Judges seminar for the last Sunday in July at the Selwyn Equestrian Centre.

A huge thank you to all our Judges and Tutor Judges throughout the District for your dedication, commitment and professionalism over the last twelve months. Our Shows and competitors appreciate the time you give freely to assist in your role. A huge thank you also to the Tutor Judge team for the work you do and the support you give to me which is invaluable.

6.7.2.f Southern – Kristine Russell

Well, another busy year has pasted and once again I'm your judges convenor. I really do want out of this job so hopefully someone else will give this report in 2025.

In July 2023 we held our judge's seminar at the Otago Taieri A&P pavilion in Mosgiel. We had a fantastic turnout with a focus this year once again on the uneven horse. Farrier Trevor Sutherland gave a very informative speech on horse's feet and how these can affect the conformation and movement of the horse. We could have listened to him for hours he was so good. Cath Bell gave a talk on conformation and Julie Wilson presented a slide show on judge's attire. After seeing some of the hats etc in the ring this year though I'm not sure everyone took her fashion advise. National Judges convenor Melissa Jebson was also in attendance. This years judges seminar is to be held in Invercargill on the 21st of July at the ILT Bagpipe Hall.

In May myself and the other district tutor judges will once again attended our biannual tutor judges meeting in Christchurch. This meeting allows all the tutor judges to discuss matters and get on the same page on topics and upskill on areas we feel are important for the judges of our district. Such a shame that this meeting isn't held at a different location in the South Island each time, as coming from the south we are currently at a disadvantage and have to pay each time we all go to this meeting. Something I feel the RAS needs to consider, since we are volunteers and with the price of lamb at the moment any spare cash isn't best spent on getting to meetings.

In July and August last year exams was held in Mosgiel and Gore where we had one grade one sit, a grade three sit and a grade three resit. We also had a Hunter jumping resit. I'm pleased to report that our candidate in Grade 1 had a good pass as did our Grade 3 resit. Our Grade 3 and Hunter Jumping candidates unfortunately failed. The new rule, adopted in 2022, where a candidate could only have a total of two years to sit and pass their exam will come into play this year.

We have a several Judges wanting to upgrade and resit this year and one who wishes to try for the Hunter jumping / working hunter exam. So, on this matter we will be holding a workshop in Wanaka on May 26th at the Waterfall Equestrian Centre.

During the season the tutors were able to preform a number of assessments for both our district and other districts around the country. It was nice to see that our district had judges upgrade in all grades. Other districts need to liaise with us in Southern a bit better re assessments to help save costs where possible though. I would also like to see a discussion around what an assessment is as I think there is some varied ideas and expectations between tutors.

I would also like something put in place regarding judges behaviour being accountable during the whole time they are upgrading not just on the day of the assessment. This would include their behaviour as a spectator, judge and competitor.

It was great to see the shows getting their judges nice and early and getting a variety of judges both near and far and getting them to me ASAP. It makes it so much easier to do my role when this happens. If a complaint occurs, I can quickly look up who judged. It also lets me know if tutor judges are judging and if I can get new candidate judges out in the ring plus when and where assessments need to take place. Strath Taieri show caused some concern this year and while they wanted help getting judges, I was reluctant to do so when they weren't using height certificates and following RAS rules when pretty much running an RAS schedule. While RAS judges judge at non-RAS shows I didn't want to put Southern districts judges in a situation where they could be compromised, as this show still run under an A&P title. Until this situation is fully sorted, I will be strongly advising RAS judges to reframe from judging at this show.

Our Conference is coming up in early June and I will be attending as we have another judge's convenor meeting on the Friday preconference. As convenors we usually meet via zoom once every two months, so this face-to-face meeting is vital for us all.

We farewell Sandy Findlater this year from the judges list. As Judges convenor I would like to thank Sandy for giving up her time to judge, in what can be a very thankless job. I wish her well with her future endeavours.

Once again, a huge thank you to our Horse Stewards Chairman. It's great that you understand the showing scene and the rules so well. I know at times I'm meant to ask your opinion but often even before I ring you, I know what you'll say. I think Ian. you'll agree with me, that this was the year of the First Ridden fiascos. This ring would be fantastic if the parents weren't allowed anywhere near it. This includes before, during and after the competition! Lastly, I would like to thank my other four tutor judges. You ladies are the best. We have a large area to cover and the work we do is all voluntary, but we do it because we love showing and want to see it flourish for many years to come.

6.8 Measuring

6.8.1 National Measuring

Most Stands again reported busy measuring days, with little concerns.

One Measuring Appeal was undertaken during the season.

Some Stands have seen a change in personnel, and have asked that Seminars are run via ZOOM again to alleviate travelling to them. These seminars are scheduled for 24 and 25 July 2024. A face-to-face Measuring Seminar has also been scheduled for Sunday 7 July, 1.30pm at the Rangiora Showgrounds Measuring Stand – anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Thank you to all Stands for their time and support throughout the season.

The new measuring season gets underway on 1 August.

8. FEES AND LEVIES

8.1 Levies Collected as at 28 May 2024

Levies still to be paid

Not a current financial member.				Ceased Membership in 2022			
	2021/22	2022/2023	2023/2024		2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
NORTHERN				CENTRAL			
Auckland	No Show	No Show	No Show	Amberley	\$756	\$977	\$938
Bay of Islands	\$130	\$767	\$970	Amuri	No Show	\$423	\$389
Clevedon	No Show	\$943		Ashburton	\$843	\$1311	\$1260
Franklin	No Show	\$675	\$662	Banks Peninsula	No Show	\$618	\$499
Helensville	No Show	No Show	\$523	Buller	No Show	\$182	\$273
Kaikohe	No Show	\$365	\$485	Canterbury	No Show	\$2238	\$2178
Kaitaia	\$296	\$385	\$211	Cheviot	No Show	No Show	\$613
Kumeu	No Show	\$685	\$600	Courtenay	\$944	\$0	\$0
Nth Hokianga	No Show	\$283	\$311	Duvauchelle	\$364	\$328	\$491
North Kaipara	No Show	\$712	\$585	Ellesmere	\$1195	\$1291	\$1341
North Wairoa	No Show	\$594	\$610	Flaxbourne	No Show	\$485	\$444
Whangarei	No Show	\$967	\$935	Golden Bay	No Show	\$262	\$249
				Hawarden	No Show	\$588	No Show
				Inangahua	\$592	\$310	\$450
MID-NORTHERN			2023/2024	Kaikoura	\$784	No Show	\$877
Cambridge	No Show	\$1310	\$1953	Mackenzie Highland	No Show	\$584	\$764
Katikati	No Show	No Show	\$243	Malvern	No Show	\$918	\$1185
Matamata	No Show	\$687	No Show	Marlborough	No Show	\$622	\$1212
Morrinsville	No Show	\$531	\$486	Mayfield	No Show	\$958	\$618
NI Premier	\$522	\$659	\$570	Methven	No Show	\$703	\$661
Paeroa	No Show	No Show	No Show	Motueka	No Show	\$708	\$417
Rotorua	\$111	\$155	\$122	Murchison	No Show	\$761	\$629
Tauranga	No Show	\$223	\$113	Nelson	\$761	\$562	\$609
Te Aroha	No Show	\$591	\$862	Northern (Rangiora)	No Show	\$1289	\$2057
Te Aroha H&H	\$383	No Show	\$175	Oxford	No Show	\$1048	\$1090
Te Kauwhata	\$1075	\$1066	\$1213	Rai Valley	No Show	\$361	\$520
Te Puke	\$142	\$185	\$214	Sth Canty Show	No Show	\$1207	\$1009
Waihi	No Show	\$378	\$513	Sth Canty Eq Show	\$1465	\$1189	\$1096
Waikato	No Show	\$1019	\$1227	SI Premier Show	\$653	\$703	\$696
				South Westland	No Show		\$36
EASTERN	2021/22	2022/2023	2023/2024	Temuka-Geraldine	No Show	\$975	\$464
Ctl.Hawkes Bay	No Show	\$977		Westland (Hokitika)	\$346	\$332	\$486
Dannevirke	No Show		\$1076				
Hawkes Bay	No Show	\$2349	\$2000				
Masterton	\$824	\$1236	\$1064	SOUTHERN	2021/22	2022/2023	2023/2024
NZ National H&F	No Show	\$1463	\$1920	Central Otago	No Show	\$971	\$929
Poverty Bay	\$1530	\$1275	\$1065	Gore	No Show	\$995	\$737
Wairarapa	\$633	\$1284	\$1438	Lake County	No Show	\$407	
Wairoa	No Show		No Show	Maniototo	No Show		
				Mt Benger	No Show	\$400	\$708
WESTERN	2021/22	2022/2023	2022/2023	North Otago	\$968	\$599	\$638
Egmont	No Show	\$876	\$1028	Otago Taieri	\$663	\$893	\$742
Feilding	\$1625	\$1525	\$1482	Palmerston/Waihemo	No Show	\$560	
Horowhenua	\$1532	\$1354	\$1489	South Otago	\$579	\$463	\$537
Manawatu	No Show	\$1475	\$1478	Southland	No Show	\$1001	\$877
Stratford	No Show	\$985	\$1075	Strath Taieri	No Show		\$535
Taihape	No Eq	\$112	No Show	Tokomairiro	No Show	\$608	\$546
Taranaki H&P	No Show	\$333	\$222	Upper Clutha	No Show	\$1354	
Waimarino	No Show	\$373	\$443	Waiau	No Show		
Wanganui	\$1798	\$2092	\$1211	West Otago	\$539	\$674	\$454
Waverley	\$832	\$1209	\$835	Winton	No Show	\$773	\$830
				Wyndham	No Show	\$722	\$811

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Inward New Zealand Equine Health Association



Equine Identification and Traceability Project Update

6th May 2024

As work from the New Zealand Equine Health Association (NZEHA) progresses on the nationwide Equine Identification and Traceability System (NZ EITS) project, it is time to update the NZ equine industry on its latest developments.

You might recall that in 2020, New Zealand had an incursion of equine piroplasmiasis (*Theileria equi*), requiring NZEHA and MPI to take measures to regain our disease freedom status. The response costs incurred by MPI and NZEHA were equally in the order of \$100K, and the costs to industry alone from the trade disruption were in the order of \$1M.

The *Theileria equi* Response Report from the debrief recommended that:

1. NZEHA, as the equine industry representative, invests in equine data management standards/systems.
2. Improve the process or system for the transition of data from the field to a response, i.e., from the sampling in the paddock to the laboratory to the response teams.

In the event of a disease incursion, the equine industry (and all other primary industries) have agreed to share the costs of a response under the Government Industry Agreements (GIA).

Preparing ahead of time is part of this agreement and helps reduce the costs incurred during a response. As part of the equine industry's plan to prepare for and respond to a disease incursion, we need to know how many horses we have, where they are, and how to contact owners. The NZ EITS aims to capture data on all microchipped horses, including full identification, ownership, and horse location data. This system will supplement and work alongside current Industry databases.

We have partnered with Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ) to develop an EIT database suitable to assist a disease response. MPI is unable to allocate any Crown funding for the project from the biosecurity allocation; however, they have indicated that they support NZEHA and will provide resources for the necessary policy and legislative changes. The key legislative change will result in the **microchipping of newborn equids becoming mandatory** after a certain start date, and the NZ EIT database will be the centralised repository.

The NZEHA has drawn on funds from the existing border levy to help fund this important work. While we will attempt to keep costs low to horse owners, costs that will be incurred as a result of these changes include the insertion of the microchips (check with your vet) and the registration of the horse on the database (a maximum of a \$15 one-off fee).

Notification of upcoming events

2024 Companion Animals NZ National EQuiChip® Campaign



Event dates:

- 26th May 2024: TAUPŌ
- July 2024: CAMBRIDGE
- August 2024: WEST AUCKLAND
- September 2024: NORTH AUCKLAND
- October 2024: WELLINGTON
- November 2024: CHRISTCHURCH

As you'll know, there are a number of reasons for improving the identification and traceability of New Zealand's equine population. Apart from the MPI's interest in national equine disease surveillance, and the various national breed and performance societies' need for accurate identification records, most horse owners' interest is in improving their ability to find their animals during an emergency such as following an extreme weather event, or if they are lost or stolen.

We'd like to inform you that we will be running six events around NZ over the next few months to microchip and register horses on our Companion Animals NZ Register (NZCAR). Our Taupo event is taking place at the Fiber Fresh National Equestrian Centre on Sunday 26/5/24 from 9 am to 3:30 pm. We would like to invite you to participate in this event if you have the time and are also looking for volunteers on the day. If you can spare some hours on the day to support us, please email nicola@companionanimals.nz or contact Nicola on 021 953 914.

Please also find below more information regarding EQuiChip®.

Background

In 2023, a series of four equine microchipping events were held in the Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa communities following the catastrophic events of Cyclone Gabrielle. The series of these events was an initiative driven by Professor Nat Waran (Director, A Good Life for Animals Centre, Companion Animals New Zealand) and enabled the equestrian community to take positive preventative measures to help reduce some of the risks and stress associated with being unable to identify horses and find their guardians in an unforeseen circumstance (weather event, national disaster, biosecurity threat, or loss of their horses due to theft). More than 200 horses were microchipped and registered on the Companion Animals NZ national database during the four events. The success of the 2023 events led us to trademark the microchipping campaign as EQuiChip® and this year we want to launch it nationally.

The following video footage was taken at one of the events:
[EQuiChip Hawkes Bay Video \(3min\)](#)

UNITED BREEDS SOCIETY COUNCIL (UBS) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



Sunday 9 June 2024 – 9.15am, Hotel Elms, Christchurch.

ATTENDANCE:

United Breeds Society (UBS) Council Executive: Ben Burgess (HSCEX Chair/Executive), Kelly Allison (Dairy Cattle Breeds Chair/Ayrshire/Jersey), Mark Fleming (Beef Cattle Breeds Chair), Ian Stevenson (Sheep Breeds Chair).

Executive: Rachel Walker (President/Otago-Taieri), Maria Barta, Sophie Holst (Helensville),

Committees: Helena McLeod (HSCEX Chair), Melissa Jebson (HSCEX Judges Convenor/Standardbred), Christine Roberts (Operations Manager/Oxford).

Members: Paula Bell (Southland) Alex Corrigan (Egmont), Georgina Day (SD Rural Ambassador), Marie FitzPatrick (RA Judge/Oxford), Lorraine Gardner (Cheviot), Steph Gowing (Whangarei), Merran Hain (Poverty Bay), Richard Holst (Franklin), Fe Howie (Upper Clutha), Nicky Hutchinson (HLM), Vicki Jagersma (WD Chair/Stratford), John Jebson (CD Chair), Dellwyn Malcolm (SD Chair/Winton), Chris Mason (ND Chair/Hon.Life Member), Georgina Maud (Egmont), Emmy Maxwell (Gypsy Cob), Duncan McArthur (CD Council), Bruce McRobbie (MND Chair/Morrinsville), Melanie Morris (Northern), Diane Neumann (Bay of Islands), Pippa Newby (Gypsy Cob), Bruce Orr (Hon.LM), Amanda Parkes (MND Judges Convenor), Michelle Radford (Stratford), Caitlin Rhodes (2024 Rural Ambassador), Sophie Ridd (WD Rural Ambassador), James Robbie (ED Rural Ambassador), Annette Robinson (Nelson), Katie Rousell (MND Rural Ambassador), Christine Rowe (ED Chair), Phillippa Sanders (Blk & Col. Sheep/Mackenzie), Graham Stewart (NZ Holstein), Leigh Taylor (MND Manager), Diana Timms (Cheviot Sheep), Gilbert Timms (Perendale Sheep), Jill Timms (Horowhenua), Paul Vanner (Stratford), Stephen Vince (Stratford), Jaime Winter (Clydesdale), Bernadette Woffeden (Shetland Pony Breeders).

1	Welcome	Discussion - Action
	Sophie Holst – Executive member	Warm welcome extended by the Sophie Holst, to meeting attendees.

2	Chair of Meeting	Discussion - Action
	Ben Burgess – RAS United Breeds Society Council Chairperson	Welcome from the Chair, who opened the 2024 United Breeds Society (UBS) Council Annual General Meeting.

3	Apologies	Discussion - Action
3.1	Rosalie Bakker (Dexter Cattle Soc.); Rob Hall, Jane Jenkins, A Windle (Riding Pony), Kay Worthington, Philip Worthington (SI Lowlines).	Decision: THAT the apologies as noted in 3.1 be received.
		Moved: B Burgess CARRIED

4	Conflict of Interest	Discussion - Action
		No conflict of interest declared.

5	Chairperson's Report	Discussion - Action
5.1	United Breeds Society (UBS) Chairperson	See page 41. Decision: THAT the United Breeds Society Chairperson's 2023.2024 Annual Report as tabled, be received.
		Moved: B Burgess Seconded: M Fleming CARRIED

6 Standard follow up items		Discussion - Action
6.1	Confirmation of 2023 United Breeds Council (UBS) Annual General Meeting Minutes	Decision: THAT the Minutes of 25 June 2023 United Breeds Council (UBS) Annual General Meeting as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.
		Moved: B Burgess Seconded: K Allison CARRIED
6.2	Matters arising from Minutes (not on Agenda)	No matters arising.
6.3	General Business added to the Agenda	None tabled.

BEEF CATTLE BREEDS – Mark Fleming (Chairperson)		
7 Reports		Discussion - Action
7.1	Beef Cattle Breeds Chairperson – Mark Fleming	See pages 41-42. Decision: THAT Beef Cattle Breeds Chairperson’s 2023.2024 Annual Report as verbally read, be received.
		Moved: M Fleming Seconded: I Stevenson CARRIED
7.2	7.2 Australia NZ Blonde d’ Aquitaine Society 7.3 Belgian Blue Cattle Society 7.4 Charolais Breeders NZ Inc, 7.5 Dexter Cattle Society NZ Inc. 7.6 Galloway Cattle Society 7.7 Gelbvieh Cattle Breeders Soc. 7.8 Limousin Beef Breeders Soc. 7.9 NZ Angus Association 7.10 NZ Beef Shorthorn Assn 7.11 NZ Charolais Cattle Society 7.12 NZ Hereford Association 7.13 NZ Highland Cattle Society 7.14 NZ Highland Lifestyle Soc. 7.15 NZ Maine Anjou Cattle Soc 7.16 NZ Murray Grey Beef Cattle 7.17 NZ Red Poll Cattle Breeders 7.18 NZ Salers Society 7.19 SI Lowline Promotion Group 7.20 Simmental Cattle Breeders 7.21 South Devon Cattle Society 7.22 Speckle Park International 7.23 Welsh Black Cattle Breeders	Breed Societies delegates were all asked for a written report – see pages 42-43. NZ Charolais Cattle Society report received post Agenda Decision: THAT the Annual Reports of the affiliated Beef Cattle Breeds Societies as tabled, be received.
		Moved: D Malcolm Seconded: M FitzPatrick CARRIED
		Concerned expressed by the Chair that Breed reports are not being furnished by our members.

8 Royal Show Schedules		Discussion - Action
		<i>As part of the Strategic Business Review all Beef Cattle Section schedules will be reviewed.</i>

9	Correspondence (Inward)	Discussion - Action
9.1		No correspondence received or tabled.

10	General Business	Discussion - Action
10.1	Interbreed Beef Cattle Judging Seminars	M Fleming - a seminar was held at the Canterbury Show in November 2023. Different age groups were included. A similar seminar may be held at Canterbury's 2024 Show.
10.2	Breed Societies Represented	B Orr - expressed concern that there was a lack of Beef Societies represented at Conference and attending this UBS meeting. Cattle sales have been very strong – there is also strength in the genetic market. This meeting is the opportunity for members to have their say.
10.3	As noted in 6.3	None noted.

11	Election of Chairperson	Discussion - Action
11.1	Beef Cattle Breeds Chairperson	Mr Mark Fleming – term remains current.

DAIRY CATTLE BREEDS – Kelly Allison (Chairperson)		
12	Reports	Discussion - Action
12.1	Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson – Kelly Allison	See pages 43-44. Chair – reiterated that his highlight of the year was attending the Royal Show hosted by Horowhenua A.P & I Assn – it was a great show. Record price has been set for a dairy calf - \$63,000. Behaviour issues have occurred in the Dairy Cattle sections at two Shows/Events. The Dairy Ethics Committee have had to oversee these concerns and cracked down on the behaviour. Decision: THAT the Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson 2023.2024 Annual Report as tabled, and additional verbal report be received.
		Moved: K Allison Seconded: B Orr CARRIED
12.2	12.2 Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders 12.3 NZ Ayrshire Association 12.4 NZ Guernsey Cattle Breeders 12.5 NZ Holstein-Friesian Ass. 12.6 NZ Jersey Cattle Breeders 12.7 NZ Milking Shorthorn Assn. 12.8 Purebred Jersey Breed Soc. 12.9 South Island Dairy Heifer Competition – not held this year. 12.10 Dairy Cattle Levy – \$4150 collected for the 2023.2024 financial year.	Breed Societies delegates were all asked for a written report - see pages 44-45. District and Shows are running individual Dairy Heifer competitions Decision: THAT the Annual Reports of the affiliated Dairy Cattle Breeds Societies as tabled, be received.
		Moved: K Allison Seconded: M Fleming CARRIED

13	Royal Show Schedules	Discussion - Action
		<i>As part of the Strategic Business Review all Dairy Cattle Section schedules will be reviewed.</i>

14	Correspondence (Inward)	Discussion - Action
14.1		No correspondence received or tabled.

15	General Business	Discussion - Action
15.2	National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT)	NAIT is going to full digital recording of animal movements. Some Shows have asked that a hardcopy of the TB form continues to be collected at shows as well.

16	Election of Chairperson	Discussion - Action
16.1	Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson	Mr Kelly Allison – term remains current.

SHEEP BREEDS – Ian Stevenson (Chairperson)		
17	Reports	Discussion - Action
17.1	Sheep Breeds Chairperson – Ian Stevenson	See page 45. Disappointed that only three Sheep Breeds are represented at this meeting. Decision: THAT the Sheep Breeds Chairperson’s 2023.2024 Annual Report as tabled, be received.
		Moved: I Stevenson Seconded: G Timms CARRIED
17.2	17.2 Black & Coloured Sheep Assn. 17.3 Cheviot Sheep Society 17.4 NZ Sheep Breeders Assn. 17.5 NZ Southdown Sheep Society 17.6 Perendale Sheep Society NZ	Breed Societies delegates were all asked for a written report – see pages 45-46. Decision: THAT the Annual Reports of the affiliated Sheep Breeds Societies as tabled, be received.
		Moved: I Stevenson Seconded: P Sanders CARRIED

18	Royal Show Schedules	Discussion - Action
		<i>As part of the Strategic Business Review all Sheep Breeds Section schedules will be reviewed.</i> Thank you to the Timms Family for all their support and work with the Royal Show.

		<p>P Sanders - Black and Coloured Sheep Society is wanting to re-instate two classes at the Canterbury Show but have had no responses to their requests from Canterbury A&P Assn.</p> <p>Action: Chair will speak to Canterbury Show's Sheep Convenor asking to respond to the B&C Sheep Society asap.</p>

19 Competitions		Discussion - Action
19.1	NZ Ewe Hogget Competition	NZ Sheep Breeders did not run a competition in 2023.2024. Logistics is making it impossible for a competition to be run. Congratulations to those Districts that are running individual competitions.
19.2	National Golden Fleece Exhibition	<p>see pages 46-47.</p> <p>Expressions of Interest are invited to Shows/Districts to host the NZ Golden Fleece Exhibition for 2024.2025.</p> <p>Chair – brainstorming is needed as it is getting harder to secure sponsorship. Wanaka had huge entries at their 2024 Show, but only in the fine wool section.</p>

20 Correspondence (Inward)		Discussion - Action
20.1		None received.

21 General Business		Discussion - Action
21.1		None tabled.

22 Election of Chairperson		Discussion - Action
22.1	Sheep Breeds Chairperson	<p>Mr Ian Stevenson (co-opted in 2023)</p> <p>One Nomination Received – Mr Ian Stevenson Nominator One: Simon Paterson (Merino Breed Society) Nominator Two: Steven Ellis (Dorset Down Breed Soc)</p> <p>Therefore, Mr Stevenson's nomination will go through to the Annual General Meeting for ratification.</p>

OTHER BREEDS – Ben Burgess (BB) Chairperson		
23 Reports		Discussion - Action
23.1	23.1 Alpaca Association of NZ	Breed Societies delegates were all asked for a written report – see page 47.
	23.2 Mohair NZ	
	23.3 NZ Boer Goat	
	23.4 NZ Dairy Goat Breeders Assn.	

	23.5 Llama Association 23.6 NZ Pig Association 23.7 NZ Sheep Dog Trials 23.8 Premier Dairy Goats NZ 23.9 Rare Breeds Association	Decision: THAT the Annual Reports of the affiliated Breeds Societies as tabled, be received.
		Moved: B Burgess Seconded: M Fleming CARRIED

24	Royal Show Schedules	Discussion - Action
		<i>As part of the Strategic Business Review all Breeds Section schedules will be reviewed.</i>

25	Correspondence (Inward)	Discussion - Action
25.1		None tabled.

26	General Business	Discussion - Action
26.1	As noted in 6.3	No further business tabled.

GENERAL – Ben Burgess (BB) Chairperson		
27	Young Judges and Paraders	Discussion - Action
27.1	RAS of NZ Young Judges Final	No competition held in 2023.2024. Current discussions are being held in the prospects of rejoining the Australasian competition.
27.2	Australasian Final.	NZ RAS did not participate in the 2024 Australasian Final as per the decision of the United Breeds Society Council in previous years.

28	Any other Breed Business	Discussion - Action
28.1		None tabled.

29	Election of Chairperson	Discussion - Action
29.1	United Breeds Society (UBS) Chairperson	Mr Ben Burgess – term remains current.

30	Close	Discussion - Action
		The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting.
		Meeting was declared closed at 9.48am.

5. UBS CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Ben Burgess

Welcome along to the annual RAS conference – the 2023/24 season now behind us as we move on to the 2024/25 season. Mixed weather patterns through the year has made it a challenge in most regions to be farming, notably the dry in North Canterbury and Hawkes Bay/Wairarapa.

I had the pleasure of getting round some shows this year both as a competitor, judge, and as a representative from the RAS to presenting centenary medals. Show attendance and numbers seem to rebound and it is positive I believe to see the bridge that our shows and breed societies offer to the public. The educational aspect we provide should not be undervalued.

It was good to see a beef judge grading class return to the Canterbury Show, with a few judges being graded up. We are looking to expand this programme this year coming year with a look to hold another judging school in the South Island along with one in the North Island – look out for these dates when they are announced.

I had the pleasure of attending the Golden Fleece exhibition in Rangiora earlier this year and it was great to see such a lineup of quality fleeces brought to the competition. The organizing committee and the competitors highlight the fantastic job our fiber sector does.

Thank you to the hard work through the year from my representative chairs without them my role would be a lot more complicated.

I look forward to seeing you all in Christchurch in a few weeks' time.

6.1 MINUTES (2023)

See 2023 Gazette: <https://www.ras.org.nz/about/our-conference/>

7. REPORTS – BEEF CATTLE

7.1 Beef Cattle Breeds Chairperson – Mark Fleming

Welcome to this year's RAS Beef Chairman's Report.

Well, we've had a very warm Autumn throughout the Country. The stock are looking well as you drive around, with good feed crops, Hay barns full, Silage pits and Silage bales a plenty on the farms ready for the winter. June now takes us into winter with relatively warmer soil temps than normal.

The calf sale prices have been strong as a lot of properties have the feed to carry calves through. It will be interesting to see if we have a mild winter to follow.

Many of you will know that the Nait System has now moved to OSPRI. They have taken over the administration of the National Data base and you will be able to continue all your Nait Recording and Transfers on this new site. Ospri will also continue with the M Bovis work that MPI have been involved in over the past years.

As of 21st May 2024, MPI has updated their M Bovis Eradication programme to show that there are Zero (0) Active Herds Confirmed Properties in New Zealand.

This year things look a lot better for our A&P Shows, with the Summer and Autumn Shows being able to be run without restrictions. I again enjoyed a couple of excellent days at the Wanaka show, amazing weather, with great attendance from the public.

To our other A&Ps keep up the good work with your diverse schedule of classes and events that are unique to your shows. Every A&P's formula is different which makes them strong and fun for their community.

Stud Breeders are in full swing with bull sales, with prices holding up well. Bull buyers are looking for those good Genetics in our studs. Keep up the good work putting the best Genetics you can out there for our Commercial Beef Industry.

Please remember if you have young stockmen and women that wish to be involved in the judging competitions or the Rural awards competitions, please put their names forward at your A&P shows or your Breed Society.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and help over this last year with differing beef issues and invite anyone who has concerns or questions to please contact me as I am here as your Beef Representative to help you and your breed.

7.2 Australia NZ Blonde d' Aquitaine Society - No report received

7.3 Belgian Blue Cattle Society – No report received

7.4 Charolais Breeders NZ Inc – No report received

7.5 Dexter Cattle Society NZ Inc. – No report received.

7.6 Galloway Cattle Society – No report received.

7.7 Gelbvieh Cattle Breeders Soc – No report received.

7.8 Limousin Beef Breeders Soc – No report received.

7.9 NZ Angus Association – No report received.

7.10 NZ Beef Shorthorn Assn – No report received.

7.11 NZ Charolais Cattle Society – Annette Robinson (Administrator)

The New Zealand Charolais Cattle Society (Inc) will be celebrating their 54th Annual General Meeting which will be held in the North Island next year, the location is still to be decided.

Our AGM this year was postponed until next year due to the number that indicated that they would attend, which did not meet our AGM quorum. The drought conditions in some areas and the economic climate seemed to have made an impact on the decision of some to travel.

One of the main topics/remits for 2025 will be our reviewed Constitution and reregistration of the Society under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022

The Societies Council remains stable with Mr Stuart Bryant (of Nelson) as President of the Society.

The membership of the Society has remained steady, and the small group remains passionate about the breed and its future as a terminal sire for the beef industry.

The Society has 13 Breeding members, 11 Associate members and 2 Life Members.

7.12 NZ Hereford Association – Posy Moody (General Manager)

Hereford is the second largest beef breed in NZ and NZ Herefords Association is going from strength with approx. 20,000 registered females' and over 300 active members, 35 of whom are youth.

While NZ Herefords members no longer actively show cattle in the numbers they used to, our board is very supportive of the Youth members and do see showing as a conduit in their learning. 26 youth attended the youth development weekend hosted by NZ Herefords in Canterbury this April. From there a Youth team was selected to compete at the 2025 World Hereford Conference in Kansas. We will be looking to provide them with turnout and showing experience over the next 18 months, so would like to work closely with RAS and be notified of any RAS Youth NZ events. A few of our Youth members also attended the Beef Cattle judging seminar last October with a couple of them now on the RAS Judges list. NZ Herefords would like to take this opportunity to congratulate RAS on their remarkable achievement reaching 100 years.

7.13 NZ Highland Cattle Society – James Brown (President)

Welcome to the 2024 New Zealand Highland Cattle AGM! We extend our heartfelt thanks to Anne, Ali, and Jim for their incredible efforts in organizing this memorable weekend. The AGM is always a cherished time for breeders to reconnect and share experiences, fostering a sense of community within our society.

This past year marked a significant milestone as the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society celebrated its 30th anniversary. The merchandise showcased during the AGM received overwhelming support, not only from our members but also from the general public, highlighting the enduring appeal of our breed.

Our dedicated subcommittees have been diligently working behind the scenes, with one committee poised to share exciting news later in this report. Additionally, the reunification of all registered Highland cattle under one umbrella, including breeders from the Lifestyle Highland Society, having enriched our community and further strengthened the breed.

The identification of the Myostatin gene Nt821 in Highland Cattle has been a significant development in late 2023, with our breed subcommittee collaborating with global counterparts to gather insights and formulate a comprehensive plan, soliciting feedback from our valued members is vital and we welcome it all and are open for discussion.

We extend a warm welcome to Shirley Blanchard, a founding member, who has seamlessly stepped into the role of registrar. We express our gratitude to Cynthia Christie for her dedicated service in this position. Additionally, our three counselors, James Brown, Bruce Burnell, and Jim McMurray, have stood for re-election, demonstrating their continued commitment to our society.

A special thank you is extended to Doug MacLean for his invaluable contributions to society management. His dedication has been instrumental in our success this past year. We also express our gratitude to all members for their unwavering support, which has been pivotal in sustaining our society for over three decades.

As my tenure as president concludes, I am humbled by the privilege of serving the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society. I am grateful to each member for their dedication and passion, which has ensured the longevity of our society. As custodians of this magnificent breed, let us strive to leave a legacy of improvement and security for future generations.

Wishing all breeders a prosperous 2024 season filled with exciting endeavours and memorable stories. Happy Breeding!

7.14 NZ Lifestyle Highland Society – No report received..

7.15 NZ Maine Anjou Cattle Soc – No report received.

7.16 NZ Murray Grey Beef Cattle – No report received.

7.17 NZ Red Poll Cattle Breeders – No report received.

7.18 NZ Salers Society – Ian and Anna McNaughton (Breeders)

Sadly, I have to report that the Salers Society is in the process of closing down our breed Society. Despite the great work of the Willow Creek showing team, and breeders of Salers cattle north and south...the lack of new stud breeders, and the relegation of most of our herds to commercial beef /cross breeding, has lead to the pragmatic decision to fold the Society. We always thought that these hardy hill country cattle, with easy calving and great cross breeding traits, would find a good niche here-it is a great disappointment that we have come to the end of the road.

7.19 Lowline Promotion Group – Phil Worthington (SI Chair)

In the 2023-24 season our showing members took part in the Ellesmere, Rangiora, and NZ Agricultural shows before Christmas, and in Malvern and Oxford in March.

The NZ AG Show is always a premier event and the Woolstone Park and Edsal studs competed. Woolstone again worked with Rangiora High School at the three-day November show to showcase Lowlines and give the young paraders a chance to show off their presenting, speaking and judging skills. Thirteen youth from the school – some working with cattle for the first time – took part in the spring shows, with some former team members coming back to help, bringing university mates with them. Twelve took part in the 2024 autumn shows. There is a Rangiora High School cattle team Facebook page for anyone who wants to see some pictures.

The SILPG annual meeting this year was held by Zoom as that was members' preference.

The North and South Island Lowline Promotion Groups' combined 'Lowline Cattle New Zealand' Facebook page and discussion group has seen a steady stream of pictures posted and stud and general beef and animal information shared. North Island's Matt Wilkinson is the main driver of content and instigator of debate.

Membership numbers in New Zealand now stand at 41 registered studs, 28 in the North Island and 13 in the South Island, but some stud registrations are pending as starter packages of animals have been purchased.

7.20 Simmental Cattle Breeders – No report received..

7.21 South Devon Cattle Society – No report received.

7.22 Speckle Park International – No report received.

7.23 Welsh Black Cattle Breeders – No report received.

12. REPORTS – DAIRY CATTLE

12.1 Dairy Cattle Breeds Chairperson – Kelly Allison

The dairy industry has faced a challenging past year, with an increase in costs across the board and with what could only be termed as an average milk price. This has certainly put the squeeze on the majority of operations but listening to most commentators better times maybe around the corner.

The autumn has been reasonably kind in most areas all be it very dry in large areas of the South Island – Southland is the exception to this where the autumn grass growth has been formable. With Autumn comes the sale season and there have been some outstanding results, Ferdon 75th Celebration Sale coming to mind with three different breeds all getting north of \$20,000 for animals. Also the Busybrook Obsession sale – with a top sale price lot of \$63,000.

The show season has come and gone with the usual mix of larger shows with a strong dairy section to small shows with a handful of entries. For myself a highlight this year has attending the Royal Show hosted by the Horowhenua AP&I Association in Levin. This event showcased the best of what the movement has to offer. I was very impressed with the quality and quantity of all livestock sections and in particular the dairy section was very strong – congratulations the Horowhenua AP&I Association in a well run event – you did the movement proud.

On a less positive note, there has been a number of occasions in the past 12 months where the behaviour of exhibitors has caused a concern. A number of cases have been dealt with by the RAS Dairy Cattle Show Ethics Committee. Please remember the phrase ‘no man is an Island’ and these actions affect others and the RAS movement as a whole.

I look forward to the start of another show season in the coming months – see you in the ring.

12.2 Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders – No report received.

12.3 NZ Ayrshire Association – Pam Goodin (General Manager).

Championship shows were held this season at Rotorua in the North Island and Wyndham in the South Island, and along with the NZ Dairy Event at Feilding were well supported by members.

The Ayrshire On Farm Challenge is moving from strength to strength in terms of member participation and regional results have been announced. National results will be announced at the Association’s Annual Conference in June.

The two specialist Ayrshire young handler classes, the Greenlane Trophy for young handlers aged 5-12 and the Fredrickson Trophy for young handlers aged 13-25 years were contested at both the North and South Island Championships.

Ayrshire NZ youth members also took part in the Arran Trophy for the Ayrshire Young Judge Competition at the NZ Dairy Event, with the first two placegetters representing Ayrshire New Zealand in the NZ Dairy Breeds Federation organised World Wide Sires All Breeds Young Judge Competition.

A joint Jersey/Ayrshire Judging Schools took place in the Wairarapa in April. All Ayrshire judges regularly re-certify.

12.4 NZ Guernsey Cattle Breeders - No report received.

12.5 NZ Holstein-Friesian Association – No report received.

12.6 NZ Jersey Cattle Breeders – Pam Goodin (General Manager)

Jersey NZ continues to promote and drive the growth of the Jersey breed throughout New Zealand.

Members enjoyed attending and exhibiting at shows again this season. In the 2023/24 show season the South Island Jersey Championships was held at The New Zealand Agricultural Show, Christchurch and the North Island Championship ribbons were hosted by the Whangarei A & P Show. The NZ Dairy Event was well supported by Jersey NZ members in late January 2024.

Jersey NZ youth members also took part in the Murray Harnett Youth Judging Challenge at the NZ Dairy Event. The first two placegetters represented Jersey NZ in the NZ Dairy Breeds Federation organised World Wide Sires All Breeds Young Judge Competition. The Marcus Trotter Trophy and the Holley Geck Memorial Cup are both centred on youth showing over multiple shows.

A joint Jersey/Ayrshire Judging Schools took place in the Wairarapa in April. All Jersey judges regularly re-certify.

Our flagship competition the Semex Jersey On Farm Challenge once again saw record entries.

12.7 NZ Milking Shorthorn Association – Pam Goodin (General Manager)

Championship Shows were held this season at Morrinsville in the North Island and as part of the South Island On Farm Challenge in the South Island. Milking Shorthorn Judges must now be certified regularly and may take part in any of the Dairy Breed Judging Schools.

12.8 Purebred Jersey Breed Society – Sue Schnuriger

The 2023 AGM and Conference of the Society was held in Invercargill hosted by the Skedgwell Family from Tuatapere. Penny Simmons who is the National Party MP spoke and opened the Conference.

Classification was carried out over the whole country with the numbers being up by around thirty.

The Taranaki Club held their annual On Farm Show with the Presentation Day the following day, they also hold Production Awards.

The Waikato Club has been in recess for the past year and the decision to close the Club has now been made, due to very few members.

Garry Colquhoun produces one great journal per year for the members.

Our members represented our Society well at the A & P Shows particularly at the Horowhenua Royal Show, which was a huge success, congratulations to everyone involved.

Sadly during the past year we have had to farewell two special people from within our Society, Christine Fowles and Ian Smith.

Christine was the Secretary of our Society for about thirteen years and did an amazing job; Christine resigned on the 31st October 2023 due to declining health and passed away on the 29th January 2024. Christine will always be fondly remembered and sadly missed. Sue Schnuriger is now the Secretary for the Society. Ian Smith passed away in April 2024; Ian was a founding member of the Society and President for about twenty years, a Classifier and Judge. With his wife, Robyn, the well-known Stud of Golden Oak Jerseys was established. Ian had a passion for the Purebred Jersey Breed and devoted countless hours to the Society over many years. Ian will always be remembered for this and will be greatly missed.

The 2024 AGM, on the 5th June, is in Levin and hosted by our local members in the area.

12.9 South Island Dairy Heifer Competition – not held this year.

17. REPORTS – SHEEP

17.1 Sheep Breeds Chairperson – Ian Stevenson

It's a challenging time at present for New Zealand sheep farmers battling increased farm expenses, dire market returns, high interest rates and in some areas drought.

Sheep sections at A & P Shows have again been well supported by breeders in areas with keen exhibitors who continue to support their local shows.

Again, I stress that shows need to introduce more classes which include objective data if the showing of sheep is to remain relevant going forward.

I can report that the 2023 Golden Fleece competition which was held after I wrote last years report was successful with good entries and a very high standard of fleeces exhibited. This year the competition was moved forward and held in April. It was held in Rangiora with entries in the white wool disappointing. The competition will need another brainstorm to make it worthwhile or sponsors will be reluctant to offer the sponsorship necessary for a national competition.

Wanaka A & P have grown there fine wool section hugely over the last few years to the point where this year 234 fleeces of a very high quality were exhibited. Obviously this is where the exhibitors want to exhibit there fleeces and the public go to view the competition in large numbers.

In some areas of the country ewe hogget and two tooth competitions are taking place with the majority of them being organised and run by local A&P associations with winners then progressing to a competition which is held as part of their province. These competitions are receiving good entries and have good support from interested people going around the properties with the judges.

17.2 Black & Coloured Sheep Association – Phillipa Sanders (Delegate)

Again we have new persons joining the Association, some of whom are showing their Sheep and Wool and we are adding classes for Junior Members and Gotland sheep Breeders in the Wool Section.

Our sheep numbers in the pens remain about the same, in the odd occasion outnumbering the White Breeders.

As I reported last year, plans are now well underway for the World Congress being held in November, in Christchurch.

Our Annual Conference has been held this year and next year we meet in the Hawkes Bay, early April.

Again some members supported the Golden Fleece Competition held in Rangiora.

17.3 Cheviot Sheep Society – No report received.

17.4 NZ Sheep Breeders Assn – No report received

17.5 NZ Southdown Sheep Soc - No report received

17.6 Perendale Sheep Society NZ – Russell Proffit (President)

Possibly one of the most challenging Sheep farming economic times in recent years with poor lamb returns, high interest rates and high cost. We just need to put in heads down and do the basics well, it will come right. We as Perendale Breeders need to be smart and make sure we are keeping our wonderful breed at the forefront of the commercial farmers minds.

Over the past 12 months we as a breed have had some wonderful things to celebrate with an amazing trip around Taranaki/King Country Area on our annual AGM Tour. We as a breed recognised an amazing couple who had put a huge effort into the Perendale breed for many years well. Lyn & the late Jeff Proffit on their Honorary Life Membership awards. Another very good South Island Ram fair which is one of the best multi-vendor breed sale in NZ. The only reason this does well is quality sheep and buyer support. Well done to John Henrickson & family on Top Price.

Golden Sash was a special event down at the Horowhenua show with an amazing line up of Perendale sheep - the biggest section of sheep by a long way. Well done John Henrickson & Family for winning the golden sash and exceptional line up of sheep. A special mention must go to Gilbert & Diana Timms for organising this event. Everyone there helping was because Gilbert & Diana (Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren) - this sort of dedication to an event is something special about rural NZ.

On a sadder note, we have to acknowledge the passing of a couple of amazing life members of our breed David Welch & Tony Tripp both men have been influential to the breed & their families over the years. Our condolences to their families. A special mention to passing of Audrey Brandon & Don Buchanan who were both very involved in Ward 1 – our condolences to their families too.

I have been working closely with BLGNZ to keep Perendale at the forefront of their mines and trying to make sure they remember that breed societies exist and work well to improve the sheep farming in NZ.

We as members need to keep advertising/telling our story about our wonderful breed we have. We have been using some different medias over the last few years and we need to make sure that the cost benefit is correct as we need to keep our cost in mind. We have found Facebook to be one of the cheapest media but this works best if we all share or like Perendale stories photos videos.

Lastly a special thanks to Christine who is always on the phone or email to get hold of and keeps everyone on their toes. You do such a wonderful job - keep up the great work.

To all our Council - thanks for your support, and let's make sure we keep our great breed moving forward. Keep living the dream.

19. COMPETITIONS

19.2 2023 National Golden Fleece Exhibition – Melissa Jebson (Working Group Chair)

The NZ Royal Golden Fleece Exhibition was held at the Rangiora Showgrounds Event Centre on Wednesday 17th May attracting a good crowd viewing the fleeces entered. Special thanks to the wonderful support from our sponsors, who without their generous support would not make this annual event such a success.

Thank you to our Judges Nicola Peddie (Fine Wool), Ross McGuckin (Strong Wool), Dave Burrige (Black & Coloured), Molly Gardner (Alpaca) and William Heap (Mohair) for your expertise, support and time adjudicating on the fleeces. Also thank you to PGG Wrightson for receiving the fleeces and the Northern A&P Association for the venue.

Thank you also to the team of helpers from local A&P Associations plus students from Rangiora High School who assisted with set up, judging and at the Exhibition.

Congratulations to all exhibitors on the quality of their fleeces and fibre, but special congratulations to the 2023 Supreme Fleece winners.

- Fine Fleece – Alan & Simon Paterson (Central Otago)
- Strong Fleece – Rachel Humphries (Feilding)
- Black & Coloured Fleece – RK & Est. AC Paterson (South Canterbury)
- Alpaca: Huacaya – Shamarra Galactica – Frank & Anya Walkington (Akaroa)
Suri – Blackberry Creek Lea – Dale & Sarah Henderson (Havelock)

- Mohair – Johann, Veronica & Tarla Rall – Ad Maiora Angoras.

Thank you to all Working Group members who have worked diligently to produce an excellent exhibition, as it was great to see quality fibre and fleeces together in one place. 2024 Exhibition was held on Friday 5 April.

23. REPORTS – OTHER BREEDS

23.1 Alpaca Association of NZ – No report received.

23.2 Mohair NZ - No report received

23.3 NZ Boer Goat – No report received

23.4 NZ Dairy Goat Breeders Association – Jonathan Carden-Holdstock NZDGBA (President)

New Zealand Dairy Goat Breeders Association is an association that supports their members with a range of services to breed quality dairy goats with a focus on production and type. The 2023/2024 show season was generally well supported with a high standard of stock. Highlights from the South Island; Canterbury holds the majority of the shows in the south and the standouts would be Temuka & Geraldine show and Oxford show. The standard of stock was extremely good and the Judges comments (Dave Goulden and Herbie Blakemore respectively) that supported this were very much appreciated from the exhibitors. Tamarvale Jazz took out supreme at both shows (C Carden-Holdstock). Personally I had the privilege of judging at the Gore A&P and I was very impressed with standard of stock presented. Supreme went to Ardee Dazzle (D Morton) Highlights from the North Island; Kumue A&H held the standard show on the Saturday and the North Island breed show on the Sunday. Entries were high and the standard was generally very good. A strong team of judges (Trevor Blight WA Australia, Herbie Blakemore Auckland and Abagael Higgs Canterbury) oversaw the competition and the supreme was awarded to a Nigerian Dwarf, Muddyvalley Carolina (W Millward) on the Saturday and the N Dwarf show on the Sunday.

Some areas of concern however were raised at our recent AGM: 1

. Stewards. It has been sadly noted that as older experienced stewards retire from the ring it is getting harder to replace them. Whilst we welcome new ones to the show ring we would like to work with RAS to help train these vital volunteers. Upholding the rules, clear friendly but firm communication are essential for a ring steward and supporting stewards. Some suggestions were made (at our AGM) such as a bullet points A4 laminated sheet to assist with new stewards and mentors. As an organisation we are happy to work with RAS to assist in this area.

2. Exhibitor Behaviour. Linked to the above point at some shows sadly exhibitor behaviour was not up to “show Standard”. Thankfully the majority of shows were held with no issue and competition was close but very respectful.

At our recent AGM some time was given to highlight the RAS In line Resolution Process. 3. Over the coming year we will be reviewing the rules of showing Dairy Goats with a particular emphasis on udder preparation. Further to this, giving the Judges and stewards more ability to scrutinise the milk out for best udder and T&P classes. Attached is the minimum show requirements for the Dairy Goat section at RAS affiliated shows and an updated Approved Dairy Goat Judges Panel list. Exhibitors competing for national show awards must attend shows with a minimum show schedule and an approved Judge. Thank you for considering this report at the Ras Conference.

23.5 Llama Association - No report received

23.6 NZ Pig Association – No report received

23.7 NZ Sheep Dog Trials – No report received

23.8 Premier Dairy Goats – No report received

23.9 Rare Breeds Association – No report received

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY of NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



Sunday 9 June 2024, 11am, Hotel Elms, Christchurch.

ATTENDANCE:

Executive: Rachel Walker (President/Otago-Taieri), Maria Barta, Ben Burgess (HSCEX Chair), Sophie Holst (Helensville), Anne Rogers (incoming).

United Breeds Society (UBS) Council Executive: Kelly Allison (Dairy Cattle Breeds Chair/Ayrshire/Jersey), Mark Fleming (Beef Cattle Breeds Chair), Ian Stevenson (Sheep Breeds Chair).

Committees: Helena McLeod (HSCEX Chair), Melissa Jebson (HSCEX Judges Convenor/Standardbred/Malvern), Christine Roberts (Operations Manager/Oxford).

Members: Paula Bell (Southland) Alex Corrigan (Egmont), Georgina Day (SD Rural Ambassador), Marie FitzPatrick (RA Judge/Oxford), Lorraine Gardner (Cheviot), Steph Gowing (Whangarei), Merran Hain (Poverty Bay), Richard Holst (Franklin), Fe Howie (Upper Clutha), Nicky Hutchinson (Hon.Life Member), Vicki Jagersma (WD Chair/Stratford), John Jebson (CD Chair), Dellwyn Malcolm (SD Chair/Winton), Chris Mason (ND Chair/Hon.Life Member), Georgina Maud (Egmont), Emmy Maxwell (Gypsy Cob), Duncan McArthur (CD Council), Bruce McRobbie (MND Chair/Morrinsville), Melanie Morris (Northern), Diane Neumann (Bay of Islands), Pippa Newby (Gypsy Cob), Bruce Orr (Hon.Life Member), Amanda Parkes (MND Judges Convenor), Michelle Radford (Stratford), Caitlin Rhodes (2024 Rural Ambassador), Sophie Ridd (WD Rural Ambassador), Annette Robinson (Nelson), Katie Rousell (MND Rural Ambassador), Christine Rowe (ED Chair), Phillippa Sanders (Blk & Col. Sheep/Mackenzie), Graham Stewart (NZ Holstein), Leigh Taylor (MND Manager), Diana Timms (Cheviot Sheep), Gilbert Timms (Perendale Sheep), Jill Timms (Horowhenua), Paul Vanner (Stratford), Stephen Vince (Stratford), Jaime Winter (Clydesdale), Bernadette Woffeden (Shetland Pony Breeders).

1	Welcome	Discussion - Action
	Rachel Walker – RAS President	Warm welcome was extended by the President to meeting attendees.

2	Chair of Meeting	Discussion - Action
	Rachel Walker	The Chair opened the 2024 Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand Annual General Meeting in the Centenary Year of the Society.

3	Apologies	Discussion - Action
3.1	Shona Addison (Helensville), Rosalie Bakker (Dexter Cattle Soc.), Nic Barkley (RAS Vice-President), Mary Davis (WD Manager), ulie Defilippi (NZ Standardbred Soc.), Bernadette Gilmore (Marlborough), Hamish Grigg (executive/CD Eq Chair), Rob Hall, Alice Jones (CD Councillor), Jackie Kelly (SD Councillor), Kumeu A&H Soc, Michelle Mair (Pony Breeders Soc.), Malcolm McKerrow (HLM), Justin Morrison (Rai Valley), Dale Mosley, Jon-Brian Parker (Waihi), Marilyn Parker (Waihi), Jim Parr, Jason Skurr (Oxford), Ruth Stiven (SD Manager), Andrea Thomson (Donkey & Mule Soc.), Kay Worthington, Philip Worthington (SI Lowlines).	<p>Decision: THAT the apologies as noted in 3.1 be received.</p>
		Moved: R Walker CARRIED

4 Obituaries		Discussion - Action
4.1		The meeting stood for a moment's silence as a mark of respect of members who had passed away during the year.
	4.1.1 Northern District	Mr Killen (Kaikohe); Mr Neumann (Bay of Islands)
	4.1.2 Mid Northern District	Bill Cawley (Morrinsville), Frank Flipp (Past Eq Judge), Mike Higgins (Rotorua), Ian Maslin (Waikato), Ian Smith (Matamata), Alveen Walters (Past Judge/NZ Golden Horse), Cyril Yearbury (Cambridge).
	4.1.3 Eastern District	Mr Graeme Hart.
	4.1.4 Western District	
	4.1.4 Central District	Christine Fowles (Marlborough Show Secretary), John Gunn (Past RAS President); Katrina Kelly (Southern Cauty Show Secretary), Janice Winter (Blk and Col. Sheep).
	4.1.5 Southern District	Charlie Davis (West Otago/SD Chair), Katrina Kelly (North Otago Show Secretary).

5 Conflict of Interest		Discussion - Action
		No conflict of interest declared.

6 Standard follow up items		Discussion - Action
6.1	Confirmation of 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes	Decision: THAT the Minutes of 25 June 2023 Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand Annual General Meeting as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record. Moved: B McRobbie Seconded: Ben Burgess CARRIED
6.2	Matters arising from Minutes (not on Agenda)	No matters arising.
6.3	General Business added to the Agenda (if time permits)	None tabled.

7 Reports		Discussion - Action
7.1	Presidents Annual Report	President's 2023.2024 Annual Report was circulated and tabled - pages 54-57. The Executive and Members would like to reiterate our thanks and great pride to Horowhenua A.P & I Association for hosting the 2024 Royal Show. Decision: THAT the President's 2023.2024 Annual report, as tabled be received and accepted. Moved: R Walker Seconded: M Fleming CARRIED
7.2	Financial	Performance and Financial Report for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 was circulated and tabled – see link on page 57

		Decision: THAT the 2023.2024 Annual Performance and Financial Report as tabled be received and accepted.
		Moved: R Walker Seconded: M Barta CARRIED
7.3	Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting – Leigh Taylor	Business as usual. Unfortunately, only a small number of affiliated Breeds were represented at the meeting. Decision: THAT the verbal report by the Chair from the Equestrian Breeds Annual General Meeting be received.
		Moved: L Taylor Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED
7.4	Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting – Helena McLeod-Niven	Meeting went well really well. Good positive discussion had. Decision: THAT the verbal report by the Chair from the Equestrian (Main) Annual General Meeting be received.
		Moved: H McLeod-Niven Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED
7.5	United Breeds Society (UBS) Annual General Meeting – Ben Burgess	Nothing to report - good meeting. Decision: THAT the verbal report by the Chair from the United Breed Annual General Meeting be received.
		Moved: B Burgess Seconded: K Allison CARRIED
7.6	Districts Chairpersons Reports	As tabled and circulated – see pages 58-63. Decision: THAT all District Chairpersons reports as tabled, be received.
		Moved: J Jebson Seconded: B Orr CARRIED
7.7	Royal Show	J Timms - Thank you to all who supported and helped with the Royal Show. The Association would like to host a Royal Show again but not immediately. Jill commented - don't be scared to run a Royal, you just need to add breed sections, and everything will go smoothly. Decision: THAT the tabled Royal Show Report and additional verbal comments be received.
		Moved: J Timms Seconded: K Allison CARRIED

8	Finance	Discussion - Action
8.1	Annual Membership Levy Review	Advance Notice was given to Members on 14 April 2024 of this proposal. The Executive have felt it is good governance practise to propose a CPI increase each year, with it being up to the members to vote on that recommendation and whether it be accepted or not. This prevents larger, lesser frequent increases being proposed.

		Motion: THAT the Annual Membership Levy for A&P Associations/Societies, and Breed and Kindred Societies be increased by the CPI i.e. 3.1% for 2024.2025.
		Moved: N Barkley (Treasurer) Seconded: B Burgess (Executive)
		Motion was put to the meeting – meeting voted unanimously. CARRIED
8.2	Appointment of Auditor	Decision: THAT Ashton Wheelans Ltd be appointed as the Society's Auditors for the 2024.2025 financial year.
		Moved: D Malcolm Seconded: M Jebson CARRIED

9	Remits, Motions, Business or Proposed Resolutions	Discussion - Action
9.1	Remits Results – #1 to #23	Results of Equestrian Remits that were counted by a Justice of the Peace were announced.
	1. Age of Riders – rewording of rule for riders riding horses.	64 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	2. Age of Riders and Handlers – Breed/Kindred section ages differ from those of RAS showing.	48 FOR / 17 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	3. Breed and Kindred Societies – adding the words 'and kindred'	66 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	4. Clarification of Rules – adding the words 'and kindred'	65 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	5. Life Measures – no shoes need to be removed if horse/pony has 3 consecutive measures from the age of 8yrs.	37 FOR / 28 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	6. Whip Lengths – noting all whip lengths	60 FOR / 5 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	7. Youngstock Measures – adding the word 'horse' to rule M9.	56 FOR / 9 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	8. Clean Sport – blood sample to be taken by a reg. Vet, licensed large animal practice Nurse or Techn.	59 FOR / 8 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	9. Horse/Ponies Presented – with true and correct markings as per h/c	34 FOR / 30 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	10. Exhibitors/Owners/Competitors/Judges – adding the words 'vice-versa' to rule EEFSL 7. and J25.	66 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	11. Hunter Jumping Horses – Open Hunter Class only eligible for Championship	54 FOR / 10 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	12. One Stride Double – reducing maximum from 10m to 9.5m for horses.	33 FOR / 32 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED

	13. Riders – updating wording of classes.	61 FOR / 4 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	14. Removal of Obstructions – show/event adding rules	11 FOR / 54 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	15. Judges Decision – bringing rule J19 in to GR 3 section	61 FOR / 5 AGAINST / 1 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	16. Nominated Section not offered – you may enter another section at a show other than what is classified on your h/c	27 FOR / 37 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	17. Consistency – removal of examples.	26 FOR / 38 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - FAILED
	18. Novice Classes – MSS to have only one Novice class and no Championship	50 FOR / 14 AGAINST / 3 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	19. Youngstock measures – add 'horse' to rule	61 FOR / 4 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	20. Foals Exempt – foals 6mths and under do not need a h/c	64 FOR / 1 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	21. Person Responsible Classification – 18yrs and over and responsibility & liability of animal	64 FOR / 3 AGAINST / 0 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	22. Horses Over 168cm – for life measures do not need to have shoes removed	61 FOR / 4 AGAINST / 2 ABSTAINED - PASSED
	23. Calibration of Measuring Stands – increasing the calibration from 2 yrs to 5yrs	20 FOR / 37 AGAINST / 4 ABSTAINED - FAILED
9.2	Remit #12	Members voiced their concern of Remit #12 that was voted in favour of - shortening the distance in the double jump. Due to a concern that it was a health and safety issue, the meeting asked that the Executive look at overturning this remit.
9.3	Rider Fall Card	Discussion on if a rider who has a fall should be checked out before remounting. This came from the District Tutor Judge Convenors Meeting. Actions: A reminder to members that the 'Rider Fall' card

10	General Business	Discussion - Action
10.1	Honorary Life Memberships	Mrs Diana Timms, and Mr Gilbert Timms – awarded Honorary Life Memberships in January 2024 at the Royal NZ Show hosted by Horowhenua A&P Show - citation on page 64. Mrs Melissa Jebson – awarded Honorary Life Membership in the 2024 Annual General Meeting - citation on page 64.
10.2	In-line Resolution Policy	Reminder to members that the In-Line Resolution Policy is available to download from the website - to be used if concerns are raised. The template for the Yellow and Red

		Cards are also available to download from the website. https://www.ras.org.nz/about/our-rules-regulations-and-policies/
10.3	Centenary Medals	The RAS acknowledged those people who are serving the RAS national body in the Centenary year 2024 with Centenary Medals. The District Chairs, National Role Holders, the Executive, and Christine Roberts received Centenary medals for their service in the centenary year.

11	Election of Officers	Discussion - Action
11.1	Patron	Right Honourable Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro. Current Patron – whilst in her term as Governor General.
11.2	Executive Member – 3 positions	<p>Mrs Maria Barta Mrs Barta advised that she was not seeking re-election.</p> <p>Mr Hamish Grigg (co-opted in 2023) Mr Grigg put his name forward for election. Nominator One: Bryce Murray - Canterbury A&P Association Nominator Two: Nicky Hutchinson - Honorary Life Member</p> <p>Ms Sophie Holst (2023 Rural Ambassador winner – co-opted) Ms Holst put her name forward for election. Nominator One: Chris Mason - Northern District Chair Nominator Two: David van Dam - Helensville A&P Association</p> <p>Mrs Anne Rogers Mrs Rogers put her name forward for election. Nominator One: Bryce Murray - Canterbury A&P Association Nominator Two: Rachel Walker - RAS President</p> <p>Action: Due to the nominations received did not exceed the number of vacancies: Mr Hamish Grigg, Ms Sophie Holst and Mrs Anne Rogers were duly ELECTED.</p>
		VOTE OF THANKS was extended to Mrs Maria Barta for her time and support whilst in her term on the Executive.
11.3	Horse Steward's Council Executive – National Measuring Convenor	<p>Mr Rick Croft (co-opted in 2023) Mr Croft put his name forward for election. Nominator One: Anne Holst - Helensville A&P Association Nominator Two: David Van Dam (Helensville A&P).</p> <p>Action: Due to only one nomination being received, which did not exceed the vacancy: Mr Rick Croft is duly ELECTED.</p>
11.4	Equestrian Breeds Chair	<p>Mrs Leigh Taylor (co-opt in 2023) Mrs Taylor put her name forward for election. Nominator One: John Hair - NZ Standardbred Society Nominator Two: Helena McLeod - Irish Horse Society.</p>

		Action: Due to only one nomination being received, which did not exceed the vacancy: Mrs Leigh Taylor is duly ELECTED .
11.5	United Breeds Society Executive – Sheep Breeds Chairperson	Mr Ian Stevenson (co-opt in 2023) Mr Stevenson put his name forward for election. Nominator One: Simon Paterson - Merino Breed Society Nominator Two: Steven Ellis - Dorset Down Breed Society Action: Due to only one nomination being received, which did not exceed the vacancy: Mr Ian Stevenson is duly ELECTED .

12	Close	Discussion - Action
		The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance the Centenary Conference, is looking forward to catching up with members around the districts, as well as attending shows once the new show season is underway.
		Meeting declared closed at 11.35am with a Karakia.

7. REPORTS

7.1 President – Rachel Walker

Tēnā koutou katoa

What a year! A lot has happened, and I am pleased to report on the following progress.

Thank you

Firstly, a huge thank you to all of you, for what you do for our members, competitors / exhibitors, and as officials. Thanks to those who undertake roles for their local A&P, including Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Committee members, Convenors, Clean Sport, and Measuring Stewards. Thanks to our Equestrian Judges, show officials, and those in district roles (including District Chairs, Managers, Councillors, Equestrian Judge Convenors). Thanks to those in national roles (including the United Breeds Societies Executive, the Horse Stewards Council Executive and the Equine Health Representative). Thanks also goes to the Equestrian Rulebook Review Working Group, Golden Fleece, and the Land Rover Horse of the Year Committees.

Thank you to all of you for your voluntary hours, support, and passion for showcasing rural excellence in New Zealand.

I would also like to thank the Executive, including new members this year, Hamish Grigg (co-opted) and Sophie Holst (the Rural Ambassador winner). Both have since chosen to stand for vacancies on the Executive. In the 23/24 year we have had an Executive that is predominantly under 40 and 50:50 in terms of gender. Having diversity, including age, gender, areas of interest and location is vital to have a balanced governance group, which in turn, improves governance. The Executive have also agreed that the Rural Ambassador national winner in 2024 will be invited onto the Executive through until the 2025 AGM.

Thanks also to Maria Barta, who chose not to re-stand for another term. She has been an avid supporter of the showing movement, members, and home industries. She has led the release of home industries guidance material to members and recently researched the Centenary booklet to be unveiled at the Conference and made available to all members online later in the year. Thank you for your contributions, we wish you well and know you will continue to promote the showing movement.

Last but far from least, a huge thank you needs to go to our outstanding Operations Manager, Christine Roberts. She really is the glue keeping us together and I can't thank her enough for all her hard work, support, and guidance. She is a total star and I know I am not alone in needing to thank her for all she has done to support me over the last few years.

The Executive realise that Christine has taken on more than we see as fair now that shows and national events are back in full swing. We commenced an Expression of Interest process for a part time role, from which a strong candidate pool has emerged. At the time of writing, the Executive is reviewing those candidates to determine who we wish to consider further.

Royal Show 2024

The highlight of the year, in a year with many highs, must be the return of a Royal Show. Horowhenua AP&I Association did a fantastic job when they hosted the Royal Agricultural and Pastoral Show of New Zealand over Wellington Anniversary weekend from 18-21 January 2024.

After several years between Royal Shows, we couldn't be happier with the partnership with Horowhenua to deliver what so many members have been looking for — the return of the premier show in the A&P showing movement calendar.

Horowhenua AP&I have told us that the Royal Show highlights were:

- Home Industries section entries exceeded well over 1000.
- Record gate takings — huge public attendance.
- 108 dairy cattle entries.
- 319 sheep pens filled, representing many different breeds, three times their usual sheep numbers.
- A 30% increase in horse entries.
- Stewards/Exhibitors/Competitors/Handlers came from right across New Zealand — from the deep south to the top of the north.
- Stock was exhibited from owners as far south as South Otago, and as far north as Whangarei.
- Comments and feedback have been fantastic from competitors and exhibitors, e.g. “full credit to the small committee and volunteers who dug deep to make the show a success”; “hospitality was great”; and “we will definitely be returning”.

Shows this season

This is the third year the Executive have contacted member A&P shows, either before or after their event, to understand what is important to our members and what is really happening across the country. A snapshot of that feedback from 71 member A&P shows tells us that:

- Trades seem to be going very well, with a significant number saying they were up and most others saying they were on par with previous years.
- Home Industries/Hall sections remain popular, again a significant proportion of shows recorded them as being up on last year.
- Gate takings were variable, with many having a record take. Those that were lower generally referenced bad weather or competing major events such as concerts.
- Dairy, beef, and sheep entries were up for many more shows than they were down.
- Many more shows reported equestrian numbers were down than reported they were up.

This season saw the following Royal Events and we thank those members:

- Marlborough A&P Association (3-5 November 2023) — Equestrian
- Canterbury A&P Association (15-17 November 2023) — Dairy Cattle and Beef Cattle

We also already have some Royal Events confirmed for the 24/25 season:

- Gore A&P Association (February 2025) — Beef cattle
- Hawarden A&P Association (March 2025) — Sheep and Wool (Sheep)

The Poverty Bay A&P Association has a Royal Event confirmed for the 25/26 season in October 2025, in both Equestrian and Dog Trials.

Centenary

We have planned a special celebration of the Centenary of the RAS, right back where it all began — in Christchurch 100 years ago. We are delighted to have a fantastic line up of conference speakers for 2024 and have a few special elements at conference. This includes the centenary function on Friday night, the centenary booklet, and a special celebration.

Centenary medals have been produced and sent to members to be given out as they see fit, with many having amazing stories behind their recipient.

Annual Plan 23/24 performance

The Executive is delighted to advise members that the Annual Plan 23/24 items are either completed or substantially completed. Some highlights of the results (organised by the RAS Strategic Pillars) are that:

- **People and Volunteering**
 - The Volunteering Handbook has been produced.
 - An acknowledgement programme has been designed and is being rolled out.
 - There is an increased resource pool e.g. the Australian Shows Association (ASA) Conference presentations are on the website and include a presentation on working with volunteers of different generations.
- **A sustainable and relevant showing movement**
 - A Beef Cattle seminar for current and new judges was held at Canterbury A&P. We are planning two more in the 2024 calendar year, one in each island. It is some time since such training has been held.
 - There have been several sponsorship and funding opportunities identified this year, however on further investigation (including several discussions with the other parties) they have not proven to be worth pursuing and able to deliver the hoped-for member value.
- **Support for our member organisations**
 - The Horse Stewards Council Executive have provided a 24/25 budget for an increased investment in equestrian e.g. judge development, clean sport testing, and rule simplification. This has been included in the overall RAS 24/25 budget.
 - The Rural Ambassador application form has been revised to clarify the expectations of the District and National winners e.g. their attendance at shows in the year following their win.
 - There has been support provided on the Charities Services rule changes and we have sought legal advice on the preparation of constitutions. We have asked that members interested in using a template if we have one built (for a cost) let us know. While it is a great example of a tool we can offer to members, before we spend several thousand unbudgeted dollars on it, we want to ensure it is something you want to use.
 - Where a District has provided a budget for the year, that District received an increased rebate. In 24/25, budgets received by 1 May 2024, followed up with advice on the activity completed against that budget by 31 January 2025, will be eligible for a higher rebate. This is to ensure that the rebate is being applied to activity planned and undertaken in the District rather than banked but not providing a benefit to local members.
- **Telling our stories**
 - In January 2024 we had the first Royal Show in several years, hosted by the Horowhenua AP&I. We thank them for their willingness to do so and putting on such a fantastic event.
 - The Centenary is an invaluable opportunity to talk about the RAS to a range of stakeholders including the media.
 - We have planned a special conference for 2024, with some wonderful speakers and a few special elements. A booklet on the RAS first 100 years has been produced and will be unveiled at the conference.

RAS Events

- The 2023 Golden Fleece Exhibition was held at the Rangiora Showgrounds, with judging taking place on Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 May, and the awards on 17 May at 2pm. There were very good

entries in all sections (Fine wool, Strong wool, Black and Coloured, Alpaca, and Mohair) after a three-year hiatus due to COVID. Supreme Winners were:

- Fine Wool — A & S Paterson (Otago)
 - Strong Wool — Rachel Humphrey (Feilding)
 - Black and Coloured — RK & Est AC Patterson (Cave)
 - Alpaca Huacaya — A & F Walkington (Motukarara)
 - Alpaca Suri — D & S Henderson (Wakefield)
 - Mohair — J, V & T Rall (Banks Peninsula)
- The 2023 Conference was held in Wellington on the 24th and 25th June at the James Cook Hotel. People commented that they enjoyed the discussion and working together with others from across the motu to develop ideas to take the showing movement into the future, given what Aotearoa New Zealand looks like now and is projected to look like. We workshopped the big issues our members face, shared what has worked for us, and asked questions of each other. We connected, learned, and enjoyed each other's company. We also changed the way we ran the Rural Ambassador programme meaning the people involved in that were able to engage with the conference more than previously. Notably we had a vibrant crowd with many first-time attendees. There was a positive vibe about our future. The 2024 conference is even bigger and better.
 - The Rural Ambassador competition was held again in 2023, with the final at conference. Our National Rural Ambassador winner Sophie Holst was invited to join the RAS Executive for the year of her term, and the winner in 2024 will have the same opportunity. Hamish Grigg, who was also co-opted onto the Executive, was also a District finalist in this competition. Congratulations to all District finalists and the winner of course.

Other updates

- The In-Line Resolution Process was reviewed and released at conference in June 2023 and before the start of the 23/24 season. Zoom sessions were held (one has been recorded and is on the website) to coach people on how to apply it. Advice is available for anyone with concerns.
- Tools such as a Risk Register template and guidance on dealing with conflicts of interest are available on the website for member use. This is in addition to the Volunteering New Zealand resources that are also free for RAS members to access.
- After a deficit result in 21/22 and a modest positive result in 22/23, with some careful management including holding a vacancy, we have a stronger positive result for 23/24. As mentioned last year, we know there are additional costs to holding the one-off centenary celebrations and providing more value for members e.g. the Beef Cattle seminars, increased District rebates to allow locally led developments, and increasing the investment in equestrian. We also know that in the next year we must ensure Christine has a reasonable workload and is supported with another resource. We are now in a position where we are comfortable investing in enhancements for the benefit of members and we are unlikely to have this strong a result again.
- The RAS was delighted to again partner with Equestrian Sports New Zealand and present the showing competition at the Land Rover Horse of the Year Show in March 2024. This event has not run for four years due to COVID-19 and Cyclone Gabrielle, so it was wonderful to see it go ahead at last. Special thanks to the RAS LRHOY Showing Section Committee for convening the six-day showing section for the 2024 event.

A final note

Please remember that the RAS Head Office and / or Executive Members are only an email or phone call away for any queries, concerns, or advice. We are all looking forward to seeing you at the shows next season.

Tēnā koutou katoa, Rachel Walker, National President

7.2 Performance/Financial Report – Link on website from 30 May 2024

<https://www.ras.org.nz/about/our-conference/>

7.5 Districts

7.5.1 Northern District – Chris Mason (Chairperson)

The weather was much kinder to the Shows in the North this year and it was great to see good public support. A&P Shows have been part of the fabric of NZ Society for a very long time – Bay of Islands show is the oldest in the country, with the first show held in 1842. The RAS is celebrating 100 years this year and seeing this recognised at Shows earlier this year, with special centennial medals being presented has been a great reminder of how long-established the movement is.

Clevedon – no report received

Bay of Islands - Show Day brought some lovely weather which was a relief for everyone involved. The trades had done a lot of setup the previous day so it wasn't too hectic for Show morning. The morning went by with crowds flowing through the gates a bit earlier than in previous years so the carpark looked like it was going to overflow by lunchtime. Luckily the carpark attendants did a wonderful job and we had enough room for everyone. There seemed to be a lot more people milling around the trade stalls which was great to see. Some new trade vendors gave everyone some more variety and people commented on the fact that there was a lot more to see this time. Savouring the Source was a huge hit yet again with people sitting down under the tent to enjoy the local food and wine on offer while listening to the band play some great tunes. The Muddy Gumboot Bar always seemed to have patrons hanging around with the Kerikeri Rugby Club Seniors offering burgers to pair nicely with the beer on offer. Equestrian is always a good show for everyone and was well supported by the entrants. We managed to get lots more photos this time around to be able to show off our winners. Calf Club was up in numbers which has the Committee rethinking the space for them for the 2024 Show. Really good to see the kids out there with their beloved calves. Pet Lamb is always a delight to watch and the kids really enjoy showing off their lambs. We had the Dairy Goats this year which was great to see. Always nice to have different animals for the public to interact with and learn about. Another great Show was produced and we hope that the upward trend continues for New Zealand's oldest Show.

Whangarei - The 142nd Whangarei A&P Show saw an increase in crowd numbers at Barge Showgrounds on Saturday 2nd December 2023. The weather was on our side as 11,000 people flocked to the Showgrounds on the day. Each year our President personally selects a few special awards for Show exhibitors and tradies. Four President's Choice Awards this year went to NZME Santa's Grotto, Cowley's Farmyard animal exhibitors, Whangarei and National Highland Dancing Association and Pacific Motor Group. These groups and businesses attend the Show year after year and do it to support their local community. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who assisted us with the 2023 Show behind the scenes and on the day, our members, volunteers, judges, trade site holders, competitors, and the public. Save the date for this year's Show- Saturday 7th December 2024.

Kaikohe - Our Show in January was the best attended and successful we have had in a number of years. After Covid and M.Bovis making running an A&P Show a real challenge, it was great to see things back to more normal. Highlights would have to be our pig racing with on-course 'betting'. The crowd loved it. Top Energy with their display and bus tour of the Ngawha plant is a real must see. Our small animals and children's activities also help draw the people. Having all children's activities and bouncy castle free is a cost, but without it, we would be dead. Kaikohe is not a wealthy town and with the Show in the middle of January, everybody is on holiday and broke.

Getting sponsorship and support is hard work as every man and his dog are hitting the local businesses all year round. However, our biggest concern and worry is our ageing committee, and finding younger people to help and become involved.

Paparoa - 3rd February 2024 was Paparoa's 147th A&P Show. Horses, goats and cattle featured at the show, along with shearing, wood chopping and a heap of food, trade and entertainment stalls. Improved summer weather this year meant that the indoor competition of preserves, fruit & vegetables, and flowers thrived again, alongside the ever-popular baking, handcraft, arts & craft and photography sections. Pre-dawn rain combined with gusty winds saw the numbers through the gate drop from previous years, and a sharp squall in the afternoon saw people scurrying. Equestrian entries were also well down this year (about half previous numbers). Combine that with increased general costs and the show bottom line took quite a hit. That said, those people who did attend the show appeared to be having a great time and the organising committee received a lot of positive feedback from visitors. Here's hoping the weather gods are on our side next year.

Arapohue - Our show this year was very successful overall. The Indoor Section had record entries, Cattle Section entries were well up on last year – it's good to see them coming back. The Horse entries were good but the Goat Section was disappointing due to there being another event on the same day. The gate takings were good and we've had lots of good feedback.

Broadwood - The weather on show day was fabulous, creating the perfect atmosphere for a successful event. We had a very good attendance from both the local and wider Northland community, with gate takings up on last year. Trade displays were also up on previous years, with all available trade space fully utilised. Most sections of the Show were well supported, with many first time entrants in the indoor competitions. This year shearing team celebrated 40 years of the Shearing section at our show.

While Equestrian entry numbers were down on the actual show day, this did not curb the enthusiasm and positive feedback from those who did attend.

A real show highlight this year was the more informal and inclusive Pony Club section held on the Friday night. It was a great success, with competitors ranging from 3 years to 18 years old. The Judge was very understanding and supportive, giving plenty of tips and advice to the riders. These classes created a really positive introduction opportunity for those that had never entered an A & P show before, particularly the more local riders. This resulted in several entrants being inspired to then have a go entering the show classes at Kaitaia A&P the following weekend. Everyone involved asked for it to be continued in the future shows.

Franklin - The Roger Gill Agriculture Pukekohe show was held over a sunny weekend in February. There were a number of old favourites as well as new exhibitors and entertainment stands, as well as a petting zoo. Pumpkin the Water Buffalo was a huge hit! While competitor entry numbers were down due to competing equestrian events on the same weekend, and the Cattle sections were cancelled due to lack of entries, visitor numbers are on the increase every year. Positive and constructive feedback has been received on how we can continue to improve the Show and what it offers to the public and competitors.

The RAS Centenary Medal was presented to Gael Coles and the Medal of Excellence was presented to Ian Coles, both long serving Committee members who will be stepping down this year.

Lynn Penman was also recognised as a long serving Committee member who will be stepping down this year. The Society runs on the strength of its volunteers, and their contributions were acknowledged with a presentation by our local MP and Local Board Representative.

The Committee is already looking to the 2025 Show, with more entertainment acts in the pipeline and exciting changes to look forward to.

Kaitaia – no report

Helensville - Our 120th Helensville Show – held on a beautiful sunny Saturday 24th February. We had 6231 through the gate, which included the complimentary to members, judges, stewards, volunteers, competitors, trade, plus the public. For the first time we had free entry for children 16 and under. We tried working with Fliicket ticketing platform, however late in the game it appeared this was not going to work as we don't have wifi or power at the 3 gates. We reverted to our prior use of wristbands to keep tally.

2024 was the first year we have had a theme – WOOL – NZ's hero fibre. This worked well and was able to be incorporated in many areas of the show, from the obvious livestock through to indoor classes and a fashion parade. Held our first Terrier Race, which was hugely popular with everyone from the dog owners to the crowd. 37 dogs enrolled and it was great fun. We are sure this will grow.

Entries in almost everything were down:

- Indoor especially - we sense this could be because the two prior shows were cancelled and people had got out of the pattern. We have a plan for promoting this better for 2025.
- Pet Lambs were up (13 is good for us, being so late) but calves and goats minimal.
- Dairy Cattle and Dairy Goats were good, Beef not.
- Sheep were up because of our wool theme and we also had some rare breeds on display which were popular.
- We introduced Dairy Sheep classes for the first time, at the request of Mt Albert Grammar School. Whilst they were the only competitors at this stage, they entered 15 different sheep so it was worthwhile. Their feedback was very positive as it gave their Ag students some real hands-on experience showing the stock. They report that there were several other milking sheep farmers there, who talked about entering next year (we'll wait and see if that happens!).
- Equestrian – the best numbers were in Standardbred, local Hunt Club jumping class, Mini, Led Pony, Sport Horse, Pinto. Average entries in Pony, Riding Horse & Saddle Hunter and Pleasure Horse. Low entries in Hack/Small Hack; Welsh, Lead Rein.

No entries at all in Gypsy Cob, and Pleasure Pony. We will not run Gypsy Cob again.

First Ridden we cancelled as only one entrant.

Welsh had low entries so may run a minimal 2025 ring as Led Pony entrants often do both.

Entertainment on the day was all good, variety of animal acts, community, music, dance, etc. Our first fashion parade which went well, although the sound evidently was not right and commentary was not heard. Bar and food and sideshows all report a good day. Trade survey sent out, still waiting on most to respond but those that have report all good. Our Zero Waste work diverted 76% from landfill.

Excellent support from our stellar sponsors and fabulous wee community. Improvements need to be made next year on signage for the day, possibly more shade and more help setting up and disassembling (probably everyone's issue, I imagine!).

Kumeu 2024 - With our show this year, we had to contend with several events happening in Auckland this year which saw a slight drop in numbers. From 25k over the x2 days to 20k.

The Highland Dancing Competition was cancelled due to all the girls going to the Pink concert – but they promised to be back next year. We still struggling with getting the RAS Equestrian competitors due to HOY and it always seem to fall on the same weekend as our show, which means that we are forced to look at other non-RAS Equestrian Events to fill up our oval over the weekend. There seems to be a downward trend at all A & P Shows with showing. Do we still need to pay Equestrian Levies for Non-RAS sections we have at our show??

We had brilliant weather over the x2 days with the Woodchopping starting with a minute silence for the late Jason Wynard who used our grounds for training on many occasions. He will always be missed.

The Shearing went well and we were honoured to have Alan Oldfield doing demonstrations on the Sunday of our show. No Alpacas this year due the passing of our Convenor and the Alpaca Association have no one to replace Ross. The only other animal competitions we were able to hold was the Goats, NZ Nigerian Dwarf Goats, Pigeon and Poultry, Pet Lamb and Goat, Calf Club and the Sheep Dog Trials. However there were the Farm Zone and the Kumeu Small landowners Owners who had a variety of other animal to pat and look at.

Sponsorship still lacks which makes paying out prize money and having the Cattle back very difficult for us financially. The Indoor Section was a great hit this year with entry numbers picking up after Covid. We have a brilliant bunch who always decorate and volunteer their time to make this area such a success.

Trade bookings was up from after Covid with new Businesses coming on board. We had heaps of entertainment, main stage and off stage with the popular Tractor Parade on both days. The NZ Police was able to offer a display this year. Overall, our show was a success with the hard work of all our Committee Members and Volunteers. We are excited about our next show in 2025!

District matters - A huge thank you to all Show Managers, Presidents, Committee members and Volunteers whose effort during the season helped us achieve the results above and keep the movement in good heart.

Thank you to fellow Councillors stepping down this year – Stephanie Gowing and Malcolm McKerrow – your support and work behind the scenes has been much appreciated and you will be missed!

The District struggled along again last year without a District Manager. This, combined with a lack of enthusiasm and communication from members with Council in a timely manner makes the job more difficult than it needs to be. Has the time come to reconsider the role and function of the District now that communication is so much more easily accessible with our umbrella organization?

Best wishes and every success for next Show season to all A&P Shows throughout New Zealand.

7.5.2 Mid-Northern District – Bruce McRobbie (Chairperson)

It is with pleasure I present the 2023/24 chairman's annual report for the Mid-Northern district of the Royal Agriculture Society of New Zealand.

During the year I attended a number of shows as well as some of their AGM's.

Te Aroha Hack and Hunters ran a very successful day.

Matamata tried very hard to run their show but unfortunately had to cancel due to the weather. We hope they can continue next season.

Waikato had a good show - Equestrian entries were down due to clashing with the equifest event. Dairy, Dairy goats, Alpaca and Sheep all had good entries.

Waihi had a wet show back again. But had good entries in dairy goats and calfclub was well supported. Equestrian entries were down.

Te Aroha had a successful show with the Dairy section well supported again. Unfortunately, horse entries were down.

Cambridge ran only an equestrian show with good entries in most classes.

Te Kauwhata ran Dairy, Dairy Goats and Equestrian. All sections had good entries.

Paeroa did not have a show this showing season.

Premiers had a good show over one day.

Rotorua with a change of their show date ran a successful show. They had the return of Dairy Cattle along with Dairy Goats, Sheep Sheering, Wood Chopping, Highland dancing and Equestrian.

Katikati held a very good show. Horses, Wood Chopping and a large trade section.

Tauranga ran a small show but some of the highlights were show jumping and Jelly Bean gym carna

Te Puke had an excellent show with Dairy, Beef and some Equestrian events. Other attractions included Grass Carts, B O P moto sports and Bull Riding.

Morrinsville another great show large entries in Dairy Goats, Sheep, Dogs, Alpacas. Clydesdales, Pony and Hack classes were down. This year cars, tractors and motorbikes being a large part of the show.

Overall Dairy, Alpaca, Goats were well supported. Equestrian entries were down across main shows.

Public attendance was up proving the A&P movement has something to attract the crowds along too.

Finances have remained steady thanks to those that give their time freely.

To Leigh our district manager and Doug with finance - I thank you both. To all council members and show delegates - I thank you for your support during the year.

7.5.3 Eastern District – Emma Pollitt (Chairperson)

This past season we have seen our A & P Shows continue to recover after the unsettled 'Covid years'. It was heartening to see the shows I attended to be generally well supported by the public and exhibitors. In a time when our agricultural sector's confidence is low and pressures are high, the shows created a much needed day off the farm for our rural communities to connect.

A few shows had some changes to their programmes due to the shifting landscape of resources and demand, to which each show can speak to in their reports. Special mentions to the Central Hawke's Bay sheep committee for driving a refreshed vision into the section and getting record entries along for their 2023 show. Dannevirke A & P also gave things a shake up, and despite the rough weather, their day brought people together and had a true feel of celebrating rural excellence.

Equestrian remains the biggest draw card for shows in the district, and entries stayed steady for most. With the current economy, this is a positive sign that will guarantee the longevity for some A&Ps.

Our search for our 2024 RAS Rural Ambassador resulted in James Robbie being selected to represent the district at the national conference. James comes from a strong background in livestock, particularly beef cattle. Congratulations James and all the best for the final.

I close this report as being my final duty as Chair of Eastern District. I came into the role when my predecessor Wendy Collin resigned from the position. While it has been tricky to navigate, I've been incredibly lucky to be supported by superstar secretary Tina Sergeant. A new committee is on the horizon to take care of Eastern and could not be more appreciative of their interest and support for taking the district forward.

7.5.4 Western District – Vicky Jagersma (Chairperson)

The 2023/2024 season was successful for the 10 member shows in the Western District. It is encouraging to have the events in the District celebrating community support with increased visitor and exhibitor numbers. The weather plays a big part and this season was kind and assists to bring people through the gates. The smiles, laughter and the positive feedback keeps us all engaged to continue to bring our rural and urban whanau together for fun-filled competitions and entertainment. Thank you to the teams of dedicated volunteers for the huge effort to bring your community these events.

Congratulations to Horowhenua for hosting the RAS Royal Show, a compliment that any Show can achieve and have the A&P flag flying high. The support of RAS Executive for the occasion is most appreciated.

Western have had two meetings in the past year, held in a nice venue in Waverley to be somewhat centralised. It is a great way to connect and discuss the good and bad of the showing movement and

support each other, it would be good to have representation from each Show. The financial position is stable.

Many thanks to Mary Davis, the district secretary, and the equine sector convenors Allan Windle and Michelle Mair, the wealth of knowledge is truly valuable to this group, Thank you.

I wish you all the very best for the coming 2024/2025 show season.

7.5.5 Central District – John Jebson (Chairperson)

We've done it! Another successful Show season done and dusted with not a lot of interruption due to climatic interference.

From the reports that have been given at Council meetings, a large majority of our Shows have had good crowd attendance, showing that the communities have wanted to get out and support their local event. A number of Shows have reached milestones this season – Northern 150th, Marlborough 150th, Canterbury 160th and Malvern 125th. Marlborough held a successful Royal Event in the Equestrian section in November which attracted entries from as far south as Christchurch.

Numbers of entries across the competitions and sections around our Shows have varied across our District. This has been a definite sign of the times which might take some time to improve. The patronage through the gate however has shown us that Shows have the support of the local public, and all Shows endeavour to put on entertainment and activities that make their event worth attending. The beauty about a lot of A&P Shows is the fact that every Show is different has their point of difference. Shows have different strengths showing diversity from within their areas. For example, crafts, stalls, flowers, whether a spring or an autumn Show, it is not just Equestrian, Sheep and Cattle that make a Show it is everything working together and the community buying in.

Central District has just finished hosting a very successful RAS Golden Fleece competition, attracting entries as far north as Feilding and as far south as Southland.

In June, Central District will host the 2024 RAS National Conference in the Society's 100th year which is very fitting since Christchurch hosted the first RAS National Conference 100 years ago. This will be an excellent opportunity for local A&P's to send a representative or two to see what a National Conference is all about.

Now for my thank-you's – To all District Councillors, thank you for your help and assistance throughout the year. Thank you for attending, advising and helping our District Shows when required. Meetings held by Zoom call this year have been an efficient way of conducting our business without any financial impact to Councillors. Thank you to our Tutor Judges in the Equestrian section who work tirelessly in bringing on new and upgrading judges. And last but by no means least, a huge thank you to Christine Roberts our very efficient District Manager for all the work that she does and all that she brings to her role including the huge knowledge she possess in all areas across the whole RAS divide, whether it's rules, general information or personal information Christine has the answers. Thank you, Christine, as you make my job much easier.

Finally, well done to all our Show Committees across the District for your support and for the work that you do in your local areas as it is you that keeps our wonderful Showing movement alive. I wish you all the best for the coming Show season.

7.5.6 Southern District – Dellwyn Malcolm (Chairperson)

The 2023/2024 southern district show season will be remembered fondly as my first year as southern district chairman and the first year my son William who is five leading moo one of Amy Greens calves in the young handler competition.

A little different from the last 3 years of taking his pet lambs and sheep around the shows we attended as a family. It was great seeing the passion and the knowledge the kids shared with the judges in the young handler competition. Even the southern district chairman got a first-place ribbon in the adult pet competition with William's border Leicester two tooth at the Milton show, where mullets was the fashion at their mullet competition.

There were a couple of shows we missed with farm work and Covid keeping us at home, but hopefully will get to them this coming season.

I must congratulate all the shows in southern districts on the running of their shows this season, some shows have smaller committees than others but every show member has a great story of how they got involved in the a and p movement .

With the RAS celebrating 100 years of shows in New Zealand I would like to ask each show, when they present their 100 year anniversary medal could they write a brief story about the person that receives it. And forward it on to the RAS head office. Looking forward to another busy year ahead!

7.6 Royal New Zealand Show 2024 – hosted by Horowhenua A,P & I Assn: Jill Timms - Secretary
Wow, what a Marathon that was but all so worth it!! From the moment we first decided to apply for the hosting rights of the Royal New Zealand Show right here at our showgrounds. It wasn't the easiest to convince all of our committee how great this would be to host such a prestigious event, but we decided to give it a bloody good go. Thank you to each and every one of our committee for the part they played to make it happen.

We needed to get the community on board first to assist in any way possible. We are very grateful to Horowhenua District Council and Horowhenua NZ for their generous monetary donation and judge's bags and goodies. Big thanks to Mary Davis who worked extremely hard to source extra sponsorship, this was a full-time job on its own. Also, to Maria Moxham who put in a huge effort with trade space exhibitors, she attended other events around the district and beyond to seek new exhibitors to our show. I must say it was fantastic seeing that stadium and outdoors full.

We were very fortunate to have Christine Roberts from RAS Head Office here from Wednesday to Monday. This proved to be very valuable with loads of questions and queries around rules etc, she also helped with anything we needed doing. Greatly appreciated Christine.

The show itself was absolutely amazing, I loved seeing all those breed horses on the Thursday and Friday, this certainly made the grounds look busy and colourful. Our entries were up for the Equestrian Section in our flat classes, but due to another event clashing with the same dates, our jumping classes were down a little.

The Beef Cattle Section had great entries, certainly well up on previous years. Competitors travelled from the far north to compete, with volunteers from the South Island coming to help out.

The Dairy Cattle Section entries were of high standard, great to see large entries in all sections. Over 100 entries which was amazing to see. Exhibitors travelling from all over the North Island

The Pig Section had another great display of many breeds. Good to see young handlers out there too.

Once again, the Dog Trials had excellent entries, the course was changed this year which seemed to work great.

The Sheep Section had overwhelming entries, over 300 pens which is absolutely fantastic. Exhibitors travelled from the top of the North Island to South Otago, with judges travelling from the far south.

We moved the Home Industries Section to a new location this year, this proved to be a great move. They were able to display their huge entries better and it made for a more pleasant visit to the hall. Fantastic to have the Poultry section back in attendance after a couple of years absence, and fleece wool for the first time in a number of years. Such a great display of beautiful fleeces.

The entertainment stage was full of family fun for all ages and Mahons Amusements kept those wanting rides and side show games well amused and challenged.

How lucky we were with the weather once again, certainly plays a huge part in crowd numbers. Another year of fantastic gate takings, it's so good to see families out enjoying what A&P Shows are all about and what we have to offer.

It was great to have so many of the RAS Executive here, they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gave a heap of praise on how well our show was run. Also great to see so many other showing faces from around the country competing and helping. The feedback we have had from loads of exhibitors, competitors and members of the public has been great.

I would just like to say that the lead up to the show with some of our committee members falling ill was not in the plan and it certainly made things a little more stressful, we are lucky to have a fantastic committee and team of volunteers who filled those gaps when needed. Was good to see that those unwell members were able to attend part of the show, even if not in full capacity.

Lastly, I feel so proud of my parents Gilbert and Diana Timms on receiving Honorary Life Memberships of the Royal Agricultural Society of NZ. They have given so much to the society over the years and are worthy recipients of this award. Thank you.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Annual Membership Levy Review – Advance Notice to Members emailed out on 14 April 2024...

THAT the Annual Membership Levy for A&P Associations/Societies, and Breed and Kindred Societies be increased by the CPI i.e. 3.1% for 2024.2025.

Moved: N Barkley | Seconded: B Burgess

10.1 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Mrs Diana Timms, and Mr Gilbert Timms – were awarded Honorary Life Memberships in January 2024 at the Royal NZ Show hosted by Horowhenua A&P Show. Citation as follows:

Diana and Gilbert both have had a very long association with the A&P movement, and continue to be heavily involved, especially at their show, the Horowhenua A, P & I.

As recently noted in the Horowhenua Chronicle... Sheep, sheep and more sheep - that is life for Diana and Gilbert Timms, something they have inherited from their forebears and passed on their kids and grandkids.

For over 50 years, Diana and Gilbert have convened and exhibited in the sheep section of this show, and the highlight this year is that it is a Royal, which coincides with the celebration of the RAS Centenary.

With over 300 entries this year in the sheep section, from all around New Zealand, it is a true reflection of the support that breeders give to the Timms's, and exhibitors know that they will be attending a well-run section, where great hospitality, fellowship and celebration is assured.

Diana and Gilbert run sheep studs of Perendales, Cheviots, Romneys and Polled Dorsets. They are breed judges in their own right, and have adjudicated at many RAS affiliated Shows, including Royals around the country, and enjoy catching up with fellow breeders along the way.

Diana and Gilbert are both Past President's of the Horowhenua Show, and Diana is also involved with the Home Industries section.

Diana and Gilbert have put an enormous amount of volunteer hours in at Shows, and have been well supported by their family in the background, where each one is brought in to help with multiple tasks come show time. They are also very proud that their daughter Jill who is the current Secretary of the Show.

Therefore, as worthy recipients who have voluntarily given a huge amount of time to the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand, we are pleased to present both Diana and Gilbert Timms with Honorary Life Memberships.

Mrs Melissa Jebson – was awarded Honorary Life Membership in the 2024 Annual General Meeting, Citation as follows:

Melissa has had a long association with the A&P movement, but also continues to be, heavily involved through various roles.

Equestrian is where it all began for Melissa, competing in the show ring, and it still is where she heavily involved who currently holds multiple roles –

- National Judges Convenor;
- Acting role as the Northern District Judge Convenor;
- Central District Judge Convenor;
- a Grade 1 Tutor Judge.

Melissa experience and judging ability is well sort after right across NZ by shows, and has adjudicated at the Royal Show, numerous Royal Events as well as the NZ Horse of the Year Show.

As a District and National role holder, Melissa convenes numerous workshops, seminars, tutoring by zoom, and written paper days which keeps her busy in the non-show season months.

Melissa voice is also well sort after as an announcer at shows and you can hear her voice over the mic at many shows around Canterbury and further afield such as National Horse and Pony Show and Horse of the Year Show.

Melissa's other volunteer input to the movement continues as

- A current Central District Councillor;
- A Past President and Committee Member of the Malvern A&P Association;
- And has also done a term on the RAS Executive.

It is not just equestrian that Melissa is involved in at shows – you may not know but Melissa has an artistic streak and is known to have taken out the Champion Flower Exhibit or the Decorative Exhibit Award at her own local and neighbouring shows.

Melissa is also well known as the Conference Raffle Lady, and you wouldn't dear get past her in not purchasing a ticket or two. This fundraising goes towards the Youth of our movement, and Melissa knows all to well of the cost involved with travelling overseas twice with the Equestrian Youth Team for the Tri-Nations competition, both times at her own expense.

As usual Melissa could not have done it without her family, and husband John is a great support behind the scenes, keeping the home fires burning when she is away on numerus equestrian trips throughout the year.

Therefore, as a worthy recipient who has voluntarily and continues to give, a huge amount of time to the Society, we are pleased to present Melissa with Honorary Life Membership of the Royal Agricultural Society of NZ.

WRAP UP – feedback from Conference delegates

- **Equestrian Rare Breeds Society** – will be making application to become an affiliated member.
- **Workshops** - were great. Education and awareness, entries through the gate, guest speaker suggestions to bring people through the gate. Education is paramount to be included at all shows.
- **Conference Format** - has been brilliant. Delegates attending need to go back and sell it to their organisation or neighbouring shows.
- **First Time Attendee** - the RAS are ordinary people, and everyone can work together for the benefit for their shows.
- **Young People** - their passion of our young people is paramount. They need to be included at District level and at shows. They need to be nurtured and they will in time bring more young people through.
- **Acknowledging** – Christine, CD Council and Executive for their work with the Centenary Celebrations.
- **Charities Reform 2022 Act** – reminder to those under the new Act that they must update their Constitution before 2026. **A&P's under the 1908 Act** do not need to update their Constitution but strongly recommend that they look at their current Constitutions to see if it needs updating. As per Memo that went to all members, Denton (Lawyers) are looking at a template for us to provide to our members to help them update their Constitution. The online template by the Charities has been found to not be 'fit for purpose'.
Recommendation from the floor: Would be a wise investment for each District to fund \$1,000 each, towards obtaining a template so our members could use it in the future, if needed..
- **Guest Speakers** – all great, and very beneficial. 2025 Guest Speakers could include – ESNZ; Breeds, CEO's; Sponsorship opportunities; Show focus eg attendance, free entertainment etc.

END