

Agricultural Shows

I've seen One or two

Foreword

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to write the foreword to Kevin Cahill's agricultural societies story and his involvement over a 70 year. My association with Kevin being when I was I Royal Agricultural Society of WA counsellor at the Claremont showground covering 16 years.

His story highlights is enthusiasm dedication, effort, problem solving, challenges and achievements shared by all who are part of the Agricultural societies family be it at a local Agricultural Society level, Group, or the RAS.

Kevin has fitted a lot into those 70 years and the “family” are aware of the existence of his special spirit, the long hours of preparation and the passion in promoting the agricultural and tourism and industries, and rural WA .He was reasonably successful in whatever he was involved with.

It starts with Kevin as a 16 year old delegate with Merredin Junior Farmers in attendance at the local Merredin Agricultural Show. He held a number of Executive positions with that local society. His involvement with the Eastern Group of Agricultural Societies and in particular the RAS District Displays from the 1970's covering 20 odd years. Then as an RAS councillor covering 28 years with various sections at the Claremont showgrounds.

Kevin was acknowledged by being awarded Life membership of the Merredin Agricultural Society, the Eastern Group of Agricultural Societies in 1983; an Honorary Life membership of the RAS in 2006 and Honorary counsellor of areas in 2012.

A special acknowledgement must go to his wife Rewa Cahill, and boys Grant, Peter, Mark and Dean, and brother Dennis and wife Vivienne who ran the farm at Merredin when Kevin was away doing Agricultural Society business. Also to the many others who assisted with his involvement activities .

I commend Kevin Cahill for his decision to record his Agricultural Societies involvement and producing a fascinating story.

William (Bill) Trend

These writings are an attempt to portray to the readers my input to the organisations and the passages of my life over the past 70 years. On reflection I now wonder how I fitted it all in as this is only part of the story. I hope you enjoy the various parts as you read along.

School

Junior Farmers (JF)

Merredin Agricultural Society

Eastern Group Agricultural Societies (EGAS)

Country Tourism Association (CTA)

The Royal Agricultural Society of WA (RAS) and Sections chaired – Apiculture, Pigs and Bacon Carcase Competition, Farm Skills, Agricultural Colleges Schools Competition, Trade Cattle, Sheep, Governors Cup, Inventions, District Displays and Floriculture.

This is Kevin Cahill's R A S W A story.

My first contact with the RAS was when I was a student at Aquinas College in 1946 to 1949. If you came from a country region and one of your parents was attending the Perth Royal Show (PRS) you could request to go by the College bus to the Claremont Showground to meet them. My father came to the PRS in 1948 and 1949 and I was able to meet him at Gate number 10. I would look around the PRS including the Livestock Sections with dad and then he would go off and I would arrange to meet him at the Poultry Stand which was near the Moreton Bay fig trees off Fowl House Corner (eastern end) of the main arena. I remember I was not impressed by the hot black sand on the Claremont Showground but did enjoy my day out at the PRS.

After I finished at Aquinas College, having done my Junior Certificate with 11 subjects in 1949, I returned to the farm (at Merredin) in December 1949, and I went to work immediately on our 1926 HV McKay 3.6 metres (12-foot) self-propelled header to take off my first wheat crop. This machine was a head of its time with the 3.6 metres (11.8 foot) comb whilst all other machines on the market had only 2.4 metres (8 feet) or 3.0 metres (10-foot) cut. The machine had a bagging platform on which the second person would fill the wheat bags as you travelled across the paddock. Once the platform was loaded with about 12 bags of grain you used to stop at the corner of the paddock and off loaded them into a

heap. However, I was working on my own as my father had built a large grain box on the header that held 14 bags of grain and consequently one person could operate the machine and then stop and unload when necessary. This was usually at the same heap until you had a truck load of 60 bags. This was my introduction to farming at aged 15 years.

In late December 1949 a gathering of young people in the Merredin district were sponsored by three gentlemen from the Merredin Agricultural Society (Merredin Agricultural Society) to see if we were interested in forming a JF (Junior Farmer Club) in Merredin. These three gentlemen were Mr Reg Mussared, Mr Les Dolton and Mr Ian Flockhart. Although these men are now deceased, but it was through their foresight and the organisation that was set up in Merredin which played a major part in acquiring knowledge and life's passageways for all of those young people who became members. Interestingly all of the 18 foundation members bar three ultimately won an exchange trip either interstate or overseas during their JF membership. As those present at the meeting were very keen on the idea it was agreed to meet in March 1950 when a Mr George Young from the Department of Education (who was coordinating the JF movement across WA) was invited to give members further knowledge of the organisation on a State-wide basis. As a result, the Merredin JF Club was formed with 18 members. George Young spoke about other JF Clubs that would be formed in neighbouring towns and ultimately the North Eastern District Council of JF was formed comprising clubs from Bruce Rock, Doodlakine, Kellerberrin, Yorkrakine, Wyalkatchem, Koorda, Mukinbudin, Trayning, Bencubbin, Southern Cross, and Wyalkatchem.

Because the three gentlemen mentioned above were members of the Merredin Agricultural Society it was suggested that the Merredin Agricultural Society invite two members from the JF to be delegates to their organisation so as to keep the Merredin Agricultural Society informed of the progress of the JF club. Delegates appointed were my cousin Mr Phil Cahill and myself. Little did I realise that this was to commence a lifetime commitment to the RAS (Royal Agricultural Society) movement. Phil Cahill and I duly became part of the Merredin Agricultural Society Committee from 1950 onwards and regularly attended the Committee meetings and worked at the Merredin Agricultural Show.

In July 1951 both Phil Cahill and I attended a JF Camp at Narrogin Agricultural College, Narrogin for 2 weeks along with Miss Mary Flockhart, Miss Lesley Barnett, Miss Lorna Sutherland, and Miss Val Ward. Later in the year some of us attended the RAS Show Camp at

the Claremont Showground to assist with the livestock judging in what is now named the Robinson Pavilion. In July 1952 we both went back to the Narrogin Agricultural College as we found the previous year's Camp was so informative as far as agricultural farming was concerned. I was particularly fascinated by an old Scottish Veterinarian, and he taught me quite a bit about animal husbandry. In September 1952 the JF had a State-wide Competition for a JF under 21 years to attend the Adelaide Royal Show as a guest of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia. I participated in this Competition and was lucky enough to be the first JF in WA to win a Competition to travel interstate for two weeks. Apart from attending the RASSA show, the group that comprised JF from South Australia were shown around Adelaide and Merino Breeding Districts. We were camped on the Waverley Showground and travelled out each day after the show was finished to see various parts of South Australia.

Phil and I also attended a J F machinery camp in July 1953 at the Showground accommodated in the old Lilac tearooms on Keane Avenue towards Hardey avenue at the show grounds and visited the larger machinery distributors around the city. We were at Tutt Bryant's dealership in Railway Parade Bassendean when Phil sat on a Massey Ferguson tractor and for the hell of it pulled his Ford Prefect car keys from his pocket and to all our surprise put a key in the ignition, hey presto the motor started to every one's surprise, we promptly turned it off and moved on. There was a group of young fellows at the camp who stayed out till early hours then disturbed very one on coming home and turning the lights on. We thought we would fix this by taking the fuse out of the power board on the post inside the door, Ben Mouritz from Hyden twigged to this and took a bone handle table Knife from the kitchen and put it across the terminals, creating an almighty flash that woke everyone up, it melted the bone off the steel blade and luckily no one was hurt. Boys will be boys.

The Merredin Junior Farmers Club was very active in the events of the North eastern districts council and held an Achievement Day in Merredin for the Eastern group Club members. These Achievement days were rotated around the clubs of the d for many years. Phil Cahill was President of the Achievement Day Committee, and I was his secretary, and we had a very good rollup to the day at the Merredin Showground. This rotation system ultimately became the same method used by the Eastern group of agricultural societies for their participation in the RAS District Displays when they were reinstated in 1967 after an absence of 30 years. Merredin Junior farmer Club members also attended other functions or camps held across the State.



Left / right, Burnie O'Donoghue, Phil Cahill, Ian Flockart, Kevin Cahil, Ray Gordon- Miller, Bob Gigney, Ray Snell. At the first Ram Judging at the Show in 1951

In 1952 a number of us young farming lads who had joined the Merredin Agricultural Society and some committee members sons included helped erect a 40 ft X 20 ft steel framed shed off the end of the Agricultural hall on the Merredin ,especially for showing wool and Poultry shed. Steel framed sheds had just come on the market in recent times ,and this seemed the way to get exhibition space. I back loaded upwards of a 100 chook pens in the stock crate for the Society from Poultry Farmers in Midland whenever I took stock for Sale over the next 12 months.

Within a year or two the poultry shed was over flowing with wool entries. Poultry waned a little for a period and there was a time when it was totally filled with fleeces displayed three high on stands. Government finance had become available, so I pushed for a wool pavilion. My father in law Ron Turner was a builder in the city but had contracts refurbishing Police stations and High schools in the country, so I enlisted his help. It was decided to build a building high enough to accommodate Badminton so as to have another party sharing the cost along with a Junior Farmers Club Room & kitchen, Ag society and shire. The badminton through Bill Adlam chairman flatly refused because of cost as they were such a small group, I begged them to help us get things underway ,for if they defaulted it would not matter as the others would pick things up and at least we would have a building. I suggested to Ron about designing a

building that had brick walls to about 5 or 6 feet high then asbestos for 10 or so feet in the walls ,so as to get height for Badminton.

The Shire council would not have a bar of this, as it had a policy that all buildings on the show ground from that period on had to be brick, consequently the walls were lowered to cut costs and Badminton missed out. I bowed out of the negotiations and asked Peter Maughan President of Junior Farmers to take over the situation and continue on, for it was discovered that the Govt loan was not available through the Agricultural Society as it was not available for use to show wool. Nothing could be done to change this law as lobbying the Politicians was to no avail as most found out. Many Ag societies across the state were as disappointed as Merredin. The building is now the Nukarni football club room and an asset on show days.

We all know the story, the bottom fell out of wool and the Merredin Poultry Club went from strength to strength in the 90's and filled the shed completely.

There were trips available through the JF and in 1952 I competed in a Competition to choose the WA outstanding JF under 21 years and I was successful in winning this and went as a guest of the Royal Agricultural and Historical Society of South Australia and attended the Adelaide Royal Show. I also visited properties around the country districts and was most taken with the lucerne growing flats around Burra.

In 1957 WA was given the chance to send a JF on an International Farm Youth Exchange program to the United States of America (USA). This was the first time the Australian Council of Junior Farmers had offered this to W A Junior Farmers. I believe several lads had joined the program in the U.S. with one of these earlier, being Fred Dunwell from Narembeen. I participated in this Competition and was to compete against many of the same Competitors that I had in 1952.

At the time of the trip I was engaged to Miss Erica Twine a nurse from Toodyay. Dad and I looked at purchasing a farm at Quairading. I felt I had a good chance of taking out this Competition so I mentioned it to my dad that maybe we should hold off with this purchase for the moment in case I was to win and take the USA trip. Luck was in my favour by winning the USA trip and I travelled to the USA in March 1957 staying 6 months and visiting the States of Colorado and Illinois. Before returning to Australia, I travelled for two weeks around England, Ireland, and Scotland, and then four days each in Paris, Rome, Switzerland ,and Singapore.

At the Annual Conference of the J. F. in October 1957 I became State President. This became a turning point for the J. F movement because I had left for the USA under the management of Mr George Young who through the Department of Education had been fostering the development of JF throughout WA and came back to Australia under the management of Mr Donald Keith Giles a veterinarian who was in charge of the Poultry Section of the Department of Agriculture, WA. As far as I am concerned the JF movement was never the same after this appointment.



Merredin Agricultural Society Committee 1979

In January 1958 I left the farm as I had a brother Brian Cahill home from Aquinas College who was enjoying working with dad. I joined Elders Smith Ltd (Elders) and ultimately became a stockman based in Northam about 100 kms (60 miles) east of Perth. As J. F.W.A. State President the Elders management through their Junior Farmer Liaison Officer Mr Tom Spicer agreed that I could attend whatever meetings, etc. as was necessary to fill my J. F. W. A. obligations. I was hoping for an appointment to Midland Junction Saleyards in Perth and considered I may go back to university to study for a Veterinarian Degree. However,

Northam turned out to be a good posting for me as I was able to leave after-work in my Holden utility and travel to other JF Clubs around the State to show slides and talk about my experiences in the USA, I was able keep in touch with the JF clubs as part of being their President. It turned out there was hardly a club between Northampton in the north and Denmark in the south of the State that I did not visit over an 18 month period.

Whilst at Elders Northam, the management decided that they needed to have a personnel training school for selected employees across the State. This was to be held at the Claremont Showground and I was one of the personnel selected to attend. It was about late July or early August 1958 and about 20 of participants stayed on the Showground for a week. A Mr Bill Padbury, Personal Officer opened the proceedings and told us that Elders would need to fill approximately 14 top executive positions in the company in the next 3 years and the purpose of the course was to see who would be the best people to advance at a fairly rapid rate in selection for these positions. The training days were fairly full, and a very interesting event happened at the cattle selling ring which at the time was located on the corner of Mitchell Avenue and the Fletcher Cattle Lanes which had seating for the public around the ring. A Mr Keith McKinnell who was an Elders Head Livestock Auctioneer gave a talk and a demonstration on auctioneering and then each person was required to take a turn. It can be noted from this that a number of people did take up auctioneering as result of this experience and worked with the firm for many years. Mr Mel Morris comes to mind as a promising participant. At the end of the week, we were required to sit for an exam and then the results were reviewed, and we were each interviewed as far as our participation was concerned. Some of the other participants that come to mind include Mr John Garland (John Garland Real Estate), Mr Malcolm Douglas, Mr Bob French, Mr Neil Williamson, and Mr Neil Robinson.

While living and working in Northam I met Mr Tom Duncan Wilding and his brother Mr John Henry Wilding at their property at Mokine, Northam and would see them at some of the Northam Agricultural Society (NAS) meetings that I attended. Also, Tom Wilding was the adult adviser to the JF Club of Northam that I attended regularly. Other RAS Councillors (Cr) that I met were Mr Jack Collard Bushell of 'Trelawney', Grass Valley; Mr Ernest Henry Lee Steere of 'Hawthorndene', Toodyay (later Sir Ernest);. Mr Tom Duncan Wilding had just been elected in 1957 to the RAS Council. I resigned from Elders in May 1959 to return to the family farm as my father had purchased additional land and wanted me to return

home to help manage. I found it a big decision to make as I had been given encouragement in Elders as a result of the training school. I spoke to my boss in Northam Mr Jack Hannigan, and he said that if I went back to the farm and it did not work out, he was sure I would be welcomed back with Elders.

On returning to Merredin, I became involved again with the Merredin Agricultural Society as I had gone home to the Merredin Show in 1958, little did I know that for the next 50 odd years every second Monday night of the month became a meeting night attending at the Merredin Agricultural Society . It was flourishing at the time and had a Committee limit of 28 members under the Constitution and we actually had a waiting list to join the Committee. All fuel companies, livestock companies and banks in the town had a person on the Merredin Agricultural Society Committee as well as the Road Board Chairman and Secretary, and farming and community members. A generational change was taking place as JF members were starting to fill executive positions in the Merredin Agricultural Society and the local Agricultural Shows were getting bigger each year and soon a two day show which started under chairmanship of Mr Norm Temby of Bodallin was to become the normal practice.

In 1961 I became Vice President of the Merredin Agricultural Society where the Chairman had a three-year term. In 1963 I was elected President while flat on my back in Merredin hospital with appendicitis and complications. The previous President Mr Hector Murfit came to visit me in the hospital to see if I would take on the position and I became the youngest President elected since the Merredin Agricultural Society was formed in 1919. From the early 1960 s onwards, I started to attend the Saturday night cocktail party at the PRS as either an office bearer of the Merredin Agricultural Society or the Eastern district group of agricultural societies , and this has continued ever since.

In 1962 the Merredin Shire had agreed to the local football club's request to plant the sports oval with new grass in early July in the hope of it being completely thatched over by the winter of 1963.

Unfortunately, the Merredin Agricultural Society show was held on the first weekend in September and the ground was still very rough. Previously the Merredin Agricultural Society had asked the Bruce Rock Pony Club to play a demonstration match of polo on the showground. To make matters worse the Football Association who had not communicated any dates had also planned the football Grand Final for the Sunday. This meant the Merredin Agricultural Society Committee

had to pack up the jumps, etc., from the Merredin Showground and have other facilities cleared for the football activity. Because the ground was rough, several players complained of the oval conditions and reckoned that they had injured their ankles. It turned out the President of one of the football clubs was a Merredin Shire Counsellor. He had raised all hell at the Council Meeting on the following Tuesday which resulted in a motion been put and carried that under no circumstances would horses be allowed again on the Merredin showground. This of course caused commotion at the next Merredin Agricultural Society meeting and even people in the street were asking what was going to happen. I had done some homework and President Hector Murfit and I requested a deputation to the next Merredin Council Meeting and asked for the matter to be reconsidered because we felt if it was upheld it would create major problems for other Agricultural Shows across the State. I appealed to the Merredin Council and said that if the decision was not reversed Hector Murfit and I would take a deputation to the Minister for Local Government to seek his support. The Shire President Mr Geoff Telfer rang me that night to say that the decision was to stand so I replied that Hector Murfit and I would be meeting with the Minister (Mr Cyril Ruston) the following day.

1963 was our wettest year on record and the only year in my farming career that we did not put in the last 202 hectares (500 acres) of crop because it was now late July. Hector Murfit and I set off the next morning to find the Great Eastern Highway had been cut by flood waters at a big creek west of Tammin. It was impossible to cross the flooded creek, so we headed north to Yelbini to travel around through Dowerin and Toodyay to Perth. We came across another creek that I walked into to gauge the depth and thought we could cross but unfortunately stopped in the middle. I got out and did the unthinkable and cut 2 lengths of wire out of a local farmer's fence as luckily someone had come along on the north side and would be able to pull us through. We met the Minister for Local Government, Cyril Ruston who said that I was correct in that I had established that the Merredin Showground was an A class reserve vested in the Merredin Shire Council to administer and no section of the community was to be discriminated against for the use of the Merredin Showground. After considerable discussion pointing out the implications that if this was approved it would make things difficult for all Agricultural Society across the State as more grassed ovals were being established. The Minister thanked us and said that he would look into the matter and do something about it. That evening I believe he rang the Merredin Shire President, Mr Geoff Telfer and advised him to call the

Shire Counsel together and reverse the decision. A win for us at Merredin but of course it became a win for all Agricultural Societies around the State.

At this point. In time. our farming acreage had expanded to 8500 acres (3440 h). And we were running 3500 ewes and cropping. 4500 acres (1821 h). Lamb marking. was a big task because of so many paddocks involved ? When packing away a truckload of hurdles I said to my Brothers Brian & Dennis this is the last time we would do this as next year we will have a portable set of yards. The following morning we set about this project, and a week or so later.

We had designed and built the first set of portable sheepyards in the world. Because of using. Weldmesh in the panels and as a fence on the holding Pen, we approached ARC Engineering in Welshpool who manufactured the mesh, to see if they would be interested In manufacturing them. Their comment was,

Patent the yards and come and see us again. We did this and then licenced ARC to manufacture the yards for the 17 year. Life of the patent. This revolutionised our sheep work, hence the phrase. ("Take the yards to the sheep.") This we have done ever since. Since ARC was a National. Group, consequently, the yards were manufactured and distributed across Australia, under Australian patent number 1964050448 (Serial number 280290) from May 1964 onwards. ARC asked us to do something about cattle yards, but as we had no cattle at the time we declined, however it wasn't long before another manufacturer picked up the idea, following along similar ideas to ours. Paul Jones from ARC had been supplying the Ras with two sets of yards since the inception of farm skills in 1984, at times it had been difficult to get two sets for this occasion and on occasions both Paul and I have gone out of our way to pick up a set from Muresk or wherever we could get the second set if there were none in stock.

when counsellor Michael Jones took over from me as chairman in 1998 the committee made a decision to buy two sets of porta yards as part of RAS property as they are also used for the working sheepdogs set up after Farm skills for show week. The order was duly passed on to Asset Services who unfortunately ordered them from Cyclone the Opposition. I was absolutely God smacked and wondered how I was going to face Paul Jones from ARC, naturally he was disappointed but said that's just part of business and continues to judge the Fencing Competition at Farm Skills and has told he may continue to do this when he retires. I have been time keeping for the event these last 10 years alongside him.

In 1986 I hurriedly wrote the history of the first 67 years of the Society for the 60th actual show. We had been going through a period of expansion as was evident by the rapid expansion of the area requested for the machinery display, and the reality that a move of the Channel Seven Marque from the seven acres of grass hockey field to the main oval of 13 acres would be a good move.



Photo of the first Agarama in 1982 on the Hockey field

I encouraged the society to tap into the grant scheme that the Government had set up for agricultural societies across WA, which was administered by the Royal Agricultural Society through whom it was necessary to apply for financial assistance to house and exhibit livestock throughout W. A. I convinced the Merredin Committee to apply for a loan to build some cattle pens and led a deputation to the Shire for their Support and Financial Assistance. They agreed to come to the party to the tune of 25% meaning the committee found 25% and the govt the remainder. I carted the cattle pens home before the year was out. Shortly after we applied to erect two double sided display shed to be used for cattle and or horses as the yards were adjacent to one another. In those days we were having excellent shows commencing on the Friday with entries up and the Channel seven Huge Marque giving us the Extra space we needed. A well supported Fine Art Competition coupled with a wine and cheese tasting and a full scale trotting meeting. Many Old timers commented in the 70' s that with the advent of Pony clubs in neighbouring districts, coupled with a full program over 2 days that there were more horses on the ground than they had ever seen,

than in the peak horses period of bygone days in 20' s & 30's. the sideshow area had expanded and with the trotting meeting and all the lights on over several years we were experiencing power Black outs. We were advised that another power transformer was needed to service the ground and the shire were approached about this in conjunction with the S.E. C. The outcome of this was that Society Chairman Graham Dalton and I took a deputation to the Side Showman's Assoc executive in Perth as they were as concerned as we were particularly from a safety point of view and they no doubt point of income. Graham and I were over the Moon when we were given a cheque for \$2,500 towards the costs of an extra Transformer that would have a meter attached for the show period and the account would be settled by the Sideshows when they left .This also meant that a fixed ground location was available every year that couldn't be expanded on ,and the Sideshow people sorted out there individual locations, not something our Society Steward would be involved in and abused for if stall holders could not get the best position. I should add here that I had been talking to Wagin agricultural society people including Horrie Pederick and others about show dates and the Side Shows including the Kalgoorlie Fair, bearing in mind that the Fair date was fixed in relation to the wage period at the mines. Wagin were discussing setting up the Woolarama and we at Merredin were considering changing to Autumn as we had a situation where more than half of our committee were now going on holidays in September because of the school Holidays and school exhibits had disappeared from the show as well as many of the public as the first Saturday in September, our long standing show date was the commencement of the Holiday period. Also it was only going to be a matter of time before other societies in the eastern Group would experience the same situation as every week end in September had an eastern group show on that would clash with Merredin if they chose another date, so it was not just a case of Merredin changing the date, bearing in mind the Royal came into the September equation also. As Wagin was the first show of the Autumn period, it was decide that Wagin would be the first and Merredin would either follow Wagin or the Side show group would go to Kalgoorlie and come to Merredin afterwards on their way home to the City. Things where working okay until 1982 when Bunbury decided to hold a show on the weekend after Kalgoorlie, meaning side shows would bypass Merredin for the Larger Centre . Merredin were not happy and appealed to Bunbury to change. This was to no avail, so Merredin asked the Royal to intervene, and though I was new on Council, I was not able to get support as Council said it was a group matter. I was very ,very disappointed and it had a huge effect on Merredin, with practically no Side Shows at future shows.

The District Displays were now under way again following the Second World War and the Eastern Group of Agricultural Societies was the only Group not participating in the Competition at the PRS. R A S were requesting that the Eastern Group should join the District Displays so as the whole of the State was represented, except the Kimberley region at that time. At the Eastern Group Annual General Meeting in November the RAS President Mr Arthur Wilkinson and Director Mr Jack Fingal Howson who had been attending the AGM for a number of years and finally at the Group AGM in Merredin in 1969. Arthur Wilkinson and Jack Fingal Howson and Past President Mr Norman Seymour Fletcher attended and pleaded with the Eastern Group to come on board with organising a District Display or they may look at getting a window dresser to do something so as to have Eastern represented. Mr Murray Whitehead from Bruce Rock was group President at the time and Mr Bill Leckie of Merredin was the Secretary/ Treasurer. Murray Whitehead's term expired at the meeting and as Vice President I was elected Chairman of the Group. Murray Whitehead was against participating because he thought it would be an ongoing commitment that the group might not want on an annual basis. However, a further meeting was called after it was decided to rotate the responsibility of organising a District Display around the Societies of the group on an annual basis. The question was which Society would volunteer to hold the first District Display. The November meeting closed on this basis, and it was decided to have another meeting in the St John Ambulance Hall in Merredin in late February 1970 to see if a Society would volunteer to take the job on for the 1970 PRS. At the February meeting all Agricultural Societies of the group were present and the Quairading Agricultural Society (QAS) represented by Don Thomas Stone who later became a Councillor in 1978 stated that they were prepared to organise a District Display, however they had one condition and that was as Chairman of the Eastern group, they would like me to Chair the District Display Committee (DDC). I stated that I would do this as I thought the group should participate in the District Displays at the PRS and because we were going to rotate around the different Agricultural Societies it meant it would be 8 years before Quairading would be asked to do it again. All Agricultural Societies pledged their support to the DDC in whatever way they could, I then commenced going to Quairading Town Hall each month to assist with the plans of participating. At the first meeting it was decided that the DDC would appoint someone to take on responsibility of each section of the District Display as it was planned. These appointments would then be notified to all Agricultural Societies of the group with the section leaders seeking assistance from the various

societies to obtain the material, etc. that they required. The meeting decided that the name and Theme for the District Display would be 'Stacey's Lamb Train'. Mrs Beryl Langsford was the designer/ organiser and Mrs Ella Martindale was the Secretary of the DDC. All Shires of the Eastern group were approached for financial support of \$50 to help create a working fund, everyone approached contributed, and some did so every year for 46 years. With a subsidy from RAS for the District Displays as further financial assistance, a budget was drawn up to use for the District Display. Eastern was awarded third place for their initial participation in the RAS District Displays and financially the group came out okay with some money in the account to pass on to the next Society. There was some prizemoney associated with the 3rd placing. DDC workers and anyone else involved, donors etc personally contributed to hold a celebratory dinner in the Quairading Town Hall. Southern Cross, Yilgarn Agricultural Society volunteered to do the 1971 display with Mr Joe Granich as President of the District Display and much to my relief and pleasure. Some of the people who took on the specialist roles in the previous Display Committee were prepared to continue on for 1971. The Southern Cross committee appreciated this action as it was a tremendous help to them, one person in particular Mr Robin Comley who took the responsibility for providing grains, fodder and pastures a most important part of any Eastern District Display. Since the 1970's, he has become an expert in this field particularly with wheat varieties and has a complete record of all grain that has been bred and manufactured in Australia. If he did not have a particular variety of grain, he would know what the parent grains were and could crossmatch and produce that variety. He has been used by the Department of Agriculture, W A, and the Australian Wheat Board to put on displays on several occasions in the past. He quickly found out the best way to preserve grains from year to year and over 43 years filled this role on an annual basis for whatever Agricultural Society was doing the District Display. From the mid-1970 s onwards Mr Bob Panizza from Southern Cross took on the role of providing minerals as he had access to the local mines in the Southern Cross area. About the same time Mr Fraser Job from Corrigin provided wool for the District Display, and for many years I provided honey and honey products. In 1983 when I became a RAS Councillor, I was appointed Councillor in Charge (CIC) of the Honey Section at the PRS from 1985 to 1994.

Through his District Display involvement Don Thomas Stone from Quairading was asked to stand as a RAS Councillor and was duly elected in 1978 and later became Councillor in Charge (CIC) of the District Displays Section in 1986. Cr Harold Klopper who had been CIC

District Displays since their recommencement after the war had decided to retire in 1981. Upon this action Cr Don William Bannister from Koorda was appointed CIC District Display Section. Unfortunately, Cr Don Bannister was involved in a traffic accident and died in 1985. Consequently, Cr Don Stone became the CIC from 1986 until he retired in 1997.

At the District Display Group Meetings at the Claremont Showground CIC Cr Harold Klopper was always talking about his idea of shifting the District Displays from around the walls into a central display located across the middle of the Centenary Pavilion. I was a little annoyed at hearing this so often I grabbed a large brown paper envelope and drew the outline of the building and a proposed central display with four sides through the centre. I had it passed down the table to Cr Harold Klopper and said to him what about taking this idea to the RAS Council to permit a move into the centre of the building in 1979. The Groups realised that this would have to be budgeted for and then set up and be built to allow this to happen. Cr Harold Klopper's idea was to have a replica of the clipper Batavia built and suspended through the middle of the building from the roof structure. Something that did not impress the Groups. To everyone's delight the RAS Council approved the move to a centre location for the District Displays. The structure was to be made of 3/4 box tubing lined with Masonite to fill in the walls. There was also a centre floor area of approximately 8 metres x 20 metres (19.6 feet x 65.6 feet) that would contain a 4 metres x 3 metres (13 feet x 9.8 feet) office section that could be locked up. Also, there would be tables and chairs, a sink and urn for the District Display people to use as a refreshment and relaxation area.

This set up proved to be a bonus for all concerned as between the PRS some of the material could be stored underneath each display area and also those building the District Displays had easy access from behind their display site for construction purposes. The construction people had a quiet area out of the public's eye and was appreciated by all of the volunteers working there. Why after many years we succumbed to going back around the walls again I am not quite sure for we did not seem to mix amongst ourselves so much or have the same spirit of comradery. Each Group paid a small levy which was used to pay for a female person to look after the ordering of the meals and called the Groups in for their lunch as it was prepared. She was also responsible for the washing up and general tidiness of this area and this was very well received and appreciated by all who attended there. Even the Judges would come into this area to meet up with their Stewards and be offered a cup of tea,

etc. before judging. After judging the Judges could return, write up their results and hand in their judging sheets at the lockup office. This was a great thing for the CIC and their Secretary could process the results on the spot. Rewa Cahill (my wife) was approached to be Cr Don Stone's Secretary in the office there and has worked with the CIC doing much the same job for the last 40 years. Mr Norm Braid from Koorda also pencilled results along with Mr Geoff Langdon who was already assisting Cr Don Stone in the office and continued to do so for many, many years.

Geoff also worked on the Dairy Display until he retired and shortly afterwards was awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the RAS for his valuable service over such a long period. The District Displays were now again located around the wall and Floriculture used the centre section of the Centenary Pavilion. The office being located in the north west corner of the building and still served the same purpose but no longer employs someone to look after the events of the day.

Eventually through my Society and Group involvement with the District Displays of which I was responsible for two displays on behalf of the Merredin Agricultural Society I was asked if I would consider standing as a RAS Councillor. I delayed this consideration for several years as I was involved in a family partnership. However, in 1982 I was asked again by Cr Don Stone, so I discussed the matter with my brother Mr Dennis Cahill and my wife Rewa Cahill. Dennis Cahill encouraged me to stand as I had put most of my life towards Agricultural Society affairs and he did not mind as I had my son Grant now working with us on the family farm. In early 1970 Rewa Cahill said to me if she could not negate my involvement with the Agricultural Societies she may as well join in. As I had previously mentioned before she became involved with the District Displays she had spent 11 years as Secretary of the Merredin Agricultural Society and apart from this acted as a Chaperon for the RAS Miss Showgirl Competition and served on the RAS Floricultural Committee for many years. In 2007 Rewa Cahill was recognised as a Volunteer of the PRS. Both of us have not missed a PRS together since 1970. My nomination to the RAS Council in 1982 coincided with my good friend Mrs Ellie Ruth Eaton from Goomalling also nominating to become a RAS Councillor. We had known each other through JF in the 1950's and 1960'. Cr Thomas Duncan Wilding was RAS President at the time so naturally on Wednesday evening of the RAS Council meeting I was anxious to know the outcome of my nomination. President Thomas Wilding rang, and I could tell by his voice that he was very upset, and he said to me that he had had an embarrassing meeting as to when the votes were counted Ellie Eaton and I had tied in voting so

as the Chair he had the casting vote. Because Ellie Eaton was the first woman in Australia to stand for the position as a RAS Councillor, he felt he should support her as it was an opportunity to have a woman on the RAS Council and if she was not elected, she may not stand again. He said the Council knew of a vacant seat to be filled in early 1983 and Council had decided that I would be an automatic appointment as a result of the decision that had been made. He hoped I was not to upset however I felt sorry for his position and fully agreed with the decision he had made, In March 1983 the RAS Director Mr Ian William Steele wrote to me and said that I had been appointed a member of the RAS Council.

In November 1983 at the Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Group held in Kellerberrin I was honoured by the Group when chairman Mr Bob Panniza asked Mr Tom Wilding RAS president to present me with Life Membership of the Eastern group ,which I had been part of since 1968 serving as President and was current Secretary.

In 1985 Rewa and Grant went off to a Merredin Ag Society Monday evening meeting, I stayed home on the farm as I had some paper work I wanted to catch up with in the office. I heard them come home and asked how did the meeting go, I was absolutely flabbergasted when Rewa said they had gone into recess. As usual they only just had a quorum, and lack of support was again a talking point, Mrs Hazel Cahill stated how disappointed she was and moved a motion that due to the lack of support the Society go into recess it was seconded by Rewa Cahill and carried. It didn't seem to worry the community very much, but after a number of years the people around September show time started to ask about a show in Merredin. Eventually with Mrs Gloria Banks as chairman of the Shire, who had been fielding many queries as to the no show situation called a public meeting to see if a committee could be formed. About 15 people showed up at the Senior Citizen building in French Avenue and a committee was formed, I was present but didn't want a position, only to assist where I could on the committee. This time, initially there were no active Farming people Involved which was a welcome change to see mainly towns people involved.

What a challenge was my first RAS Council meeting in March 1983 with President Tom Wilding in the chair. I found I knew many Councillors through my involvement over the years with many organisations but was pleased to meet the full Council and accept some responsibility. Behold I first sat with Mrs Ellie Eaton on one side and Mr Don Stone on the other: Mr John Wilding remembered me from my Elders days in Northam in 1958; Mr Clifford Curnow Bennett from Robbs Jetty Abattoir and the Les Stacey Lamb train functions; Mr Robert Bryce Hayes Thomson from

Kellerberrin who was also Chairman of the Merredin Shire Council; Mr Theodore Milton (Theo) Seymour from Miling whom I had known from the first JF camp in the JF Kimberley Street West Leederville headquarters of which I was the Chairman; also ex-Junior Farmers in Mr Don William Bannister from Koorda and Mr Noel John Gibson from Capel; Mr Justin Richard Walsh from when he drove me back to army camp in Northam. I had done my National Service in February 1953 at Swanbourne Barracks and we were to do a fortnight camp at Northam as part of the 16 Cameron Highlander Unit based in Merredin. Some so-and-so had milked the petrol out of my utility at a dance attended in Bolgart on the previous Saturday night that I had attended with my girlfriend Ms Erica Twine, Toodyay. I had walked into 'Egoline' Justin Walsh's property at five o'clock on the Sunday morning and he agreed to drop me off at a place called 'White Rocks' which apparently was used by all soldiers returning to camp out of hours during the war. I walked into my camp hut at about 6:30 am just as the other soldiers were getting up and they said to me that I must be keen being dressed already. I chuckled and said I am just getting home from the dance last night. Believe you me it was a very hard day as we had a full ceremonial parade later in the morning. I also required someone else with a vehicle to run me back with some petrol to pick my utility up and return it to the camp compound. The fence at the compound had been pushed over and we were able to sneak our vehicles out as we wanted them on the outside of the camp and very few soldiers had a vehicle there. Also, Mr William Colin Kennedy (Colin) Pearse whom I knew from JF and Farm Management Society, these were just some of the 28 Councillors present.

Several years later the RAS President Mr Arthur Wilkinson, Director Mr Jack Howson and Cr Justin Walsh came to the Merredin Agricultural Society. At this time 1977 in conjunction with the Merredin Fine Arts Society a sponsored Art Purchase Competition had become part of the Merredin Agricultural Society due to sponsorship from a Mr Peter Morton Manager of the Merredin High School Hostel and Mr Leon Baker who owned a jewellery business in the town and the Merredin Shire Council along with the Merredin Agricultural Society provided sufficient sponsorship money. Some \$3,000.00 was available to have this a State-wide Competition. We also had a person from a Swan Valley winery to provide a talk on wine and provide samples of the wines they produced. Nominations came from all over WA and could be delivered either to Merredin Agricultural Society or at the RAS Claremont Showground. A volunteer from the Fine Arts Committee or a Merredin

Agricultural Society Committee would drive to the Claremont Showground usually in a station wagon and load up the art and bring it back to Merredin on the Thursday morning so the art could be hung in time for judging on the Friday evening. There would be a wine and cheese tasting function where the winners would be announced, and the public could purchase any of the paintings that were listed in the Catalogue at the prices displayed on them. In conjunction with this a full scale Trotting Meeting was held. This provided a good start to the Merredin Agricultural Society show. Those paintings that were not sold were then delivered back to the Claremont Showground for their owners to pick them up. This was a very successful venture for many years however the visitors from the RAS were very impressed with the venture and Councillor Mr Justin Walsh then proposed that the R A S W A in 1981 commence an Art Purchase Competition along the lines of the Merredin Competition as part of the PRS.

To say the least, I was very impressed by the RAS Councillors at my first meeting. It was a swift learning curve that put me in good stead. It was an opportunity to catch up with Property Services who operated in a tumbledown arrangement of a shed and office in front of where the Jim Webster Pavilion now stands. The foreman Mr Len Kernigan was a force to be reckoned with until he had to resign a few years later as a result of some shady deals.

I was anxious to know what Sections I was going to be appointed to by President Tom Wilding, they turned out to be Assistant Councillor with Mr Tom McFarlane (Tom) Cunningham who was CIC of pigs, Assistant Councillor with Councillor Mr Lewis Frederick John (Lew) Oakes CIC of Youth Displays. I was pleased to be appointed to pigs as I knew a number of breeders through the JF movement, and it was good to catch up with many of them again as I had not seen them for years. Youth Displays was another kettle of fish, and I was anxious to learn more about this. Cr Lew Oaks had organised support through the schools and other youth movements in the city particularly the groups of ethnic origin who added colour to the spectacle by way of their national costumes. There were a number of bands involved in this group of people who were assembled in the arena for the Friday night of the PRS. They performed various movements and gave individual performances. Also, in the area that is now the Carter Precinct a stage was assembled against the wall, and it turned out to be my job to compere the individual performers and small groups gathered there. Once the music started and dancing in period costumes it drew a very large crowd until the PRS finished about 9.00 pm.

It turned out to be a very popular spot on the Claremont Showground. These events occupied about two hours and the crowd tended to disperse unless of course they had been waiting for the nightly fireworks. This was where I first met Natalie Rayner as she was Secretary to the Youth Display Committee, and I think it was her first job from school. Little did I know at the time that she was to leave after a few years having worked from 1984 to 1994 to have a family and then return again to the RAS staff in 2004 and now holds a very responsible position as Manager of the Perth Royal Show Sections.

In November 1980 at the Augusta Margaret River Country Tourism Secretariat Annual Conference, I was elected Chairman of the organisation. This turned out to be a challenge, but I was able to work this in with my RAS commitments. I used to schedule a tourism meeting on the Tuesday morning in the Department of Tourism head office at 16 St Georges Terrace Perth and on Wednesday I would have the RAS Council meeting. This practice went on until 1987 when I left the chair of what had now become the Country Tourism Association of Western Australia (C T A W A). Contacts here were valuable for sponsorship arrangements particularly in the farm skills area at a later date and also when I organised a CTA WA display in the old McPherson Pavilion which was adjacent to the southern entrance of the chairlift. In 1985 and 1986 all the regions in the State were in attendance, however it turned out to be a very costly exercise and several regions stated that they would not be able to fund participation the following year, and as a result of a full discussion and vote about the matter it was decided not to continue the C T A W A participation.



District Display Winner – Eastern Districts 1984

Left / Right back row Mrs Roma Strachan Koorda,
 Mr Gray Dalton Merredin
 Mrs Shirley Dolton Merredin, Mr Robin Comley
 Quairading, Mrs Evonne Stone Quairading,
 Mr Don Stone Quairading, Mrs Jacqui Panninza Yilgarn,
 Mr Hugh Morrison Kellerberrin,
 Mrs Kathy Morrison Kellerberrin,
 Front/ Row Mr Kevin Cahill (Chairman) Merredin Mrs
 Rewa Cahill Merredin Mr Bob Panninza Yilgarn

I spent the week prior to the PRS in 1984 working on the Eastern District Display, which the Koorda Society (KAS) members who were responsible for the construction. that year, it was to be called 'Wool and Grain production'. The Chairman of the display was Councillor Mr Don Bannister, Mrs Ruth Anderson was the Secretary, and Mrs Helen Treloar was its organiser and designer. KAS was placed fifth in the overall District Display Competition. Following the week at Koorda I moved to my appointments at the Pig Section with CIC Cr Tom Cunningham, Youth Display with CIC Cr Lew Oates, and a new section for me Log Chop under CIC Cr Theo Seymour. In 1983 Cr Don Stone had been appointed by Council to set up and be CIC to look at organising and

running a Farm Skills Competition. I was a foundation member of this Committee and Cr Don Stone, and I thought of other people who may wish to help on this Committee. These were Mr Norm Braid from Koorda who became the Scorer, Mr Tom Capp who looked after the Fencing Competition, Mr John Gellard who looked after the Tractor Driving, Cr Desmond Owen (Des) Gaze who looked after the Motor Bike Competition. Mr Henry Hall was appointed Chief Steward to organise and run the event, Mr Brian Sherlock who looked after the Sheep Competition. Mr Robin Comely who supplied grains, pasture, etc.; Mr Dave Chappell and Sir Crawford Nalder. Mr Burnie Duncan whom CIC Cr Don Stone suggested we appoint Mr Burnie Duncan as Chief Steward and an excellent choice this turned out to be as Burnie Duncan worked with me when Cr Don Stone retired and until I left the position in 1998. I have a letter from Mr Burnie Duncan in 2004 written to Cr Michael Byrne Jones who had taken over as CIC Farm Skills from me in 1999. Burnie Duncan stated that friends and associates and relations had asked him why do you continue to give so much of your time to the RAS particularly now that you are retired from the wool industry? Burnie Duncan stated that his wife Mrs Gaynor Duncan who was Chief Steward of the Cookery Section for many years and I have always gained immense pleasure and satisfaction in promoting the RAS as a Society, significantly as a showcase of the achievements of the State. We enjoy the atmosphere, the company of the Counsellors, who are friendly and appreciated and the RAS personnel who are always friendly cooperative and never fail to assist us to make our contribution worthwhile with some degree of personal achievement and success. Shortly after this Burnie Duncan's contribution was recognised by the Farm Skills Committee in awarding him a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of service to Farm Skills. Unfortunately, before this Award was presented to Burnie Duncan he passed away and his wife Gaynor Duncan accepted this Award posthumously. It was a well-deserved Award. For many years Burnie Duncan had been my right-hand man at Farm Skills and we established the coloured bib practice for the recognition of the various schools and also the tag system in an endeavour to have a controlled method of schools presenting themselves for each Farm Skills Competition.

Because of my contacts through my time as Chairman of the C T A W A Cr Don Stone asked me could I help him with sponsors, and I engaged all of the sponsors that we used when Farm Skills started and gave recognition to them all. The Agricultural Societies and Groups across the State would be sent a Schedule for the first Farm Skills Pentathlon as it was to be known in 1984, with Rules and Regulations of the event

and the Groups would be asked to submit a team of five people (male or female). It was suggested to hold a Competition at their own Agricultural Show if they so wished or submit a team to have a Group final at one of the Agricultural Shows in the Group and nominate the winners of the Group final to compete in Perth on the Claremont Showground on the last Saturday of the PRS. It was hoped to have eight teams to compete at the PRS on the Saturday afternoon but unfortunately not all Groups had a team for the first year. I think there were five including Midwest, Eastern, Coastal, Great Southern and Central in the first Competition. In 1987 there was an all-female team from Perenjori who aptly called themselves 'The Bush Turkeys' and they came third.

Farm Skills Pentathlon event rules and regulations used initially included:

Event Number 1 was to be a Fencing Competition where Competitors would drive a set number of steel posts in between two strainer posts already assembled on the ground and then attach and strain three wires at specific intervals.

Event Number 2 was to be a Tractor Driving Competition where Competitors initially checked the tractor then drove off and reversed into and hooked up a trailer, then drove off to a stack of hay where they loaded 6 bales. They then drove through an obstacle course of flags, then reversed the trailer into a marked-out area representing a shed. Finally, they drove over a sleeper back to the stack to unload the bales and stack them neatly, reversed in unhooked the trailer and drive directly into the finishing box as outlined by four flags. It was to be a timed event.

Event Number 3 was called an Animal Plant and Seed Recognition Competition. This comprised three team members who were provided with photographs of cattle, Sheep, pigs, horses, poultry, grain, and pasture seeds and either live specimens of noxious plants or a photograph that they were required to identify.

Event Number 4 comprised five team members three of whom participated in part A Sheep Handling and two members in part B the RAM Appraisal Competition. 15 sheep were provided for each team, ear tags were to be covered and the Competitors were required to mouth and age the sheep and attach the coloured pegs to identify them. The four rams in part B were to be labelled A B C and D and then judged ranking them from 1 to 4 after assessing the various characteristics.

Event Number 5 a Tree Seedling and Propagation Competition used two members with trees supplied by Alcoa Australia and the competitors had to mix a potting mix and then plant them out individually in a time of 10 minutes.

Event Number 6 was a Welding Competition where the competitors were provided with a steel plate with two parallel sides bevelled, they needed to cut it in half with an Oxy acetylene handpiece and then fillet weld the bevelled edges together with the arc welder supplied, one team member was to do the cutting and the other to do the welding.

Event Number 7 was Tractor safety where two team members were to identify five obvious faults that we had created on the tractor and then locate and identify another 10 parts of the tractor.

Event Number 8 was Chemical safety where two students were to select protective clothing for mixing chemicals and select the appropriate chemicals for a specific purpose they had been supplied with from the empty chemical drums as a guide which were supplied with labels on.

Event Number 9 was a Motorbike driving and balancing Competition where one member was to place a full 7.5 litres (2 gallons) bucket of water on the carrier of the bike and the rider was to go through an obstacle course and try and not spill the water, quite a hilarious event which was timed.

Event Number 10 was a potato bagging event where a bag of potatoes was to be emptied into a line about 8 metres long and each contestant needed to fill that row of potatoes back into the bag then sew the bag up with a needle and thread supplied and carry it to the beginning of the row. A very popular event and one that times became a turning point as to who was the winner of the Competition.

The first year's event was won by a team from Quairading who went on to win the Competition about four times. Cr Don Stone had asked me to see who I had contacts with for the supply of equipment for this event and also where we may get some sponsorship. First port of call was to the people I knew in the tourism industry and a Mr George Cox who was the State Manager of Deluxe Coachlines was happy to provide 5 coach tickets to Broome and return, the winners to provide their own accommodation. As part of the deal Deluxe were to place a coach on the trotting track in the main arena for promotional purposes. This annual sponsorship continued until 1993 when Deluxe coach lines went

out of business. I approached the Cyclone company for fencing equipment and sheep handling equipment through a Mr Paul Jones. Although there had been some company changes over the years Cyclone are still supplying fencing material these days and for many, many years provided the sheep handling equipment. Unfortunately, the RAS decided to buy two sets of portable sheep yards as part of their equipment, and unfortunately, I was not consulted as at that period I was not on that committee and the yards were purchased through the opposition company. Mr Joe McCree could not believe it when it happened and I know that Mr Paul Jones was very disappointed indeed as was I, as Cyclone had supplied equipment each year for so long. Getting the sheep over the years has been a problem and they have come from many sources including the University of WA, Muresk Institute of Agriculture, and of late from Cunderdin Agricultural College. The Grange Stud helped out with the ewes and rams for a number of years when Mr Ron Niven was shearing there. Recently the Eastville Park Stud has been supplying the rams. For many, many years a friend in CIG had been supplying all of the welding equipment but unfortunately not long after Mr Eddie Leafing retired CIG considered after about 20 years they had done their part which I must say we well and truly appreciated the support over such a long period, Wattleup Tractors through the Zuvella Bros (Maron, Andy and John Logan) they're salesmen whom I first met in Merredin as a salesman for Macmillan Brown, Massey Ferguson dealership Merredin, Wattleup tractors still supply the Royal Agricultural Society a tractor today for the Competition as well as a trophy after 30 years. For Event number 3 the Farm Skills Committee put together several photo albums of animals, poultry, etc., that we were able to select various breeds for each year's Competition from and Mr Robin Comley from the EGAS used to supply various grains in little sample bottles. Through a contact I had in the Department of Agriculture who use to supply growing noxious weeds in pots, a number of varieties each year and deliver them to the ground as they needed to keep a watchful eye over any noxious weeds. Alcoa Australia provided the tree seedlings and after the Competition we used to divide these up amongst the volunteers and at my farm in Nangeenan (west of Merredin) I still have several of these seedlings which are now large trees, a nice reminder for me. I approached the manager of Yamaha Australia to supply us with low powered farm motorbikes which he did for many years.

Interestingly I arrived at the Claremont Showground one day and Mrs June Buegge who was the Secretary for the Stud Merino Breeders Association (S M B A) told me that at their meeting yesterday they had

decided that they would like to provide a four-wheel-drive motorbike as a prize for their best pen of three Merino rams Competition. She asked me did I have any idea whom she might approach. I said I possibly could, and for her to arrange to join with me as I was intending to meet with the State Manager of Yamaha about sponsoring of motorbikes for the Farm Skills Competition. After we talked about my Competition motorbikes, I asked the manager Mr Greg Eldrid how he felt about a request from the Stud Merino Breeders Association for a four-wheeldrive motorbike and introduced Ms June Buegge to explain things further. After explaining that the bike would be on display for the week in the sheep shed and then presented before a fairly large crowd he said the company would be prepared to provide a four wheeled bike for the S M B A and continue to supply me with the smaller bikes for Farm Skills. These arrangements continued for a number of years until the Farm Skills Competition was changed to the Agricultural Colleges and Schools Competition in 1990. It was decided to do away with the motorbike Competition for the Agricultural Colleges Competition mainly because of safety reasons. The four wheeled bike continued for the S M B A until a new Australian manager from Yamaha in Japan was appointed in Sydney. He immediately cancelled the sponsorship deals to all Royal Agricultural Societies across Australia, but as the WA manager Mr Greg Eldrid had already advised the RAS that the bike was available for the forthcoming PRS he told the Australian manager he would provide the bike even if it cost him his job. Ultimately, he lost his job and when I spoke to Mr Greg Eldrid sometime later he said he was a bit disappointed, but he had given his word and he intended to stick by his word and did not agree with many of the decisions the new Australian manager had made.

Ultimately Honda came to the party and sponsored a four wheeled motorbike for the Merino Competition in conjunction with Manager Mr Trevor Emery of the Farm Weekly. For the Potato Bagging Competition, the Potato Board of WA provided bags of potatoes and then collected them again after the Competition finished on Saturday evening. The Committee had several elderly gentlemen as part of the Farm Skills Committee and other Committee members had commitments to their Competition Sections to care for or were working. Personnel to set up for the Competition was a problem on the Tuesday prior to the PRS. I asked for some RAS ring staff to give me a hand. Most of these were elderly also and not very prompt which almost drove me to tears as I had asked for all of the equipment to be delivered prior to Tuesday but this never happened.

In those days the RAS had no vehicles except a clapped out old 30 cwt truck that was the Electricians vehicle. Everything on the Claremont Showground including ring jumps was moved by a small tractor and trailer in the slowest gear possible. I spoke to several of the ring crew whom, said they had other outside jobs but took holidays during the PRS period because show pay was so good. If I wanted something done a fellow would get on the tractor and one on the trailer and away, they would go and carry out my requests. There was one occasion when I asked a chap with a bandaged arm if he could give me a hand and he said he could not because he was on compo. Several years the students from Scotch College who came to help in the Wool Section would break for lunch and be waiting to be called back. If I spotted them in the stand watching, I would ask for them to give a hand for which I would reward them with a PRS entry ticket. Over many years if it was not for their assistance then I would not have been ready for the Agricultural Society Farm Skills Pentathlon Competition.

I eventually arranged for RAS Property Services to have all material to be delivered in the ring by early Tuesday afternoon. One afternoon a fellow who lived nearby came to see what was going on. Mr John Gilmore had finished work early and offered to give me a hand which he remained doing for quite a number of years and eventually he became a RAS member. Eventually his work situation changed, and he could no longer assist. Since becoming a member Mr John Gilmore and his wife have not missed a RAS Annual General Meeting since the last time he helped me out in the ring in the 90's, he still lives nearby.

there was only Mr Burnie Duncan and myself and we were able to get things done without the RAS ring staff. Some years Burnie Duncan had left, and I was still working late into the evening. I complained to the RAS Council after a compensation incident and caused a meeting to be held after the PRS between the RAS President, CEO, Manager of Property Services Mr Gary Shirley, and myself. Questions were asked as to how come a fellow on compo could be employed. Things did improve after that. I was advised that it was the first time a meeting of that sort to question Property Services actions had been held and it was a good thing. I had started to lock up with my own lock and key all of the A S F S P equipment and materials in a locker in the Pig Pavilion until the next PRS which was the only way I could keep all the equipment together. Prior to this if a steel post was required then a Farm Skills piece of equipment, a post was used which meant I had 24 hours to replace it. Having the Pig Pavilion locker was successful until 1997 when the building was demolished. I arrived at the Claremont Showground on a Monday morning to find the new livestock tunnels under construction for

entry to the main arena had begun and the contractors had used the steel post to keep the moulds in place. I was not impressed. A few years later Mr Paul Jones from One Steel assisted with taking back all fencing materials and would bring it back the following PRS which solved the problem. Other Councillors had expressed concern at how slow it was to get anything done through the Property Services system.

In 1998 when Mr Brian Higgins became Manager of Property Services, I advised him that I had had an accident with my own farm utility and had hired a Toyota utility from a hiring garage in Applecross for \$10.00 a day for the PRS show period. He was most impressed with such hiring. He approached the company and hired a utility which proved to be a real advantage for Property Services operation. The following year Mr Brian Higgins hired several utilities and ultimately did away with tractor/ trailer combinations to get activities completed. These days I believe the RAS leases quite a number of vehicles for the PRS show period.

Things had become difficult in the farming community across the State and many farmers had put off farm workers due to the financial situation. This meant many towns were feeling the pinch as people left to seek other jobs so naturally Agricultural Societies were having difficulties in keeping members and finding people to participate in the A S F S D. Several Agricultural Colleges namely Cunderdin and Narrogin had queried about taking part in the A S F S D Competition and encouraged this with the Esperance School enquiring about participating. By this time 1986 I had taken over as Chairman of Farm Skills as Cr Don Stone had been appointed to take over the District Displays due to Cr Don Bannister's death. His good friend Mr Henry Hall was appointed Chief Steward. Due to the agricultural downturn groups were having difficulty getting teams for the Competition. Agricultural Colleges at Narrogin and Cunderdin had asked about participation. A JF team from City club had asked to join the Skills Competition. This was seen as a good move however there was the problem of adults competing with youngsters and it was felt to be extremely unfair. It was tried by adjusting the scoring points to offset the difference between the school students and adults which was not all that satisfactory in 1988 and 1989. Mr Peter Gelmi in charge of Esperance Farm School had written to me regarding starting a Junior Competition. The Committee decided that we would cancel the Agricultural schools Farm Schools Pentathlon Competition and set up the Agricultural Colleges and Schools Farm Skills Display Competition. It was thought at the time the Committee needed to expand and the following were asked to assist, Mr Malcolm Seymour, Mr Kim Derbyshire, Miss Terry Fitzpatrick, Mr L Facey, Mr John Wittcock and Mr

T McPherson. This was a large Committee but all enthusiastic for something new. Mr Julian Krieg manager of Agricultural Education and Colleges from the Department of Education was to join the Committee a year later which proved to be a great asset to the Committee, and he was very keen on the A C S F S D Competition. When the Farm Skills Competition started in 1990, the matter of a prize for winners of each event was raised at a Committee meeting and this was endorsed. Where was I going to get these prizes from was quite a concern until I came up with the idea of going to Coventry Motors in Merredin who had a pamphlet which contained photos of things like socket sets, spanners, etc., and other things for use on vehicles. I spoke to the branch Manager in Merredin saying I required ten different prizes to the value of \$50.00. The manager gave me a discount so we were able to go a bit beyond the \$50.00 bearing in mind that the girls could eventually have a vehicle so the prizes would be appropriate. Over the years more events have been added which now number 16 and include such things as First Aid, GPS tracking and Chemical Safety.

The A C S F S D would encourage all Agricultural Colleges across the State to compete in the A C S F S D Competition under the new guidelines. This was held in 1990, with Cunderdin, Esperance, Narrogin, Morawa, and Harvey Agricultural College teams participating. Deluxe Coach Lines were still the main sponsors and with a nominated teacher from the winning College as chaperone the winning team travelled to Melbourne to be guests of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RAS VIC) with their accommodation covered by Flag International Ltd in Melbourne. I knew the State Manager of Flag WA through the CTA. The RAS VIC provided a program for the students to visit various manufacturing properties and the sites of Melbourne which was greatly appreciated by the RAS. The winners in 1990 came from Cunderdin Agricultural College. In 1991 the Deluxe Coach Line went out of business. I approached the State Manager of Greyhound Coach Lines to see if they would fill the gap. Mr Andrew Chisholm was happy to take up the sponsorship and the winners of the A C S F S D Competition went east as guests of the RAS VIC. The students came from Narrogin Agricultural College with Mr Ray Batt as the teacher chaperone in charge. The following year Cunderdin won the Farm Skills Competition again and with their chaperone set off to Melbourne. Unfortunately, several of the students misbehaved in Melbourne, became insubordinate showed no respect for the bus company they were in and unfortunately this was the end of the program to send winners to the Eastern States. The RASVIC wrote to RAS and the Farm skills Competition Committee and stated they would no longer give any further assistance. I believe

the two students were expelled from Cunderdin Agricultural College as a result of their behaviour also Greyhound said they would no longer provide the coach trip. I was fast running out of contacts, but I had one left although I was not too hopeful of support. I approached Mr John Court at Ansett Airlines to see if there was anything the company were prepared to do. Mr John Court spoke to someone else in the office and after a moment or two came back to me and said yes that Ansett Airlines would provide the RAS with 6 flight tickets to Adelaide and return. I could not thank him enough for what he had provided for the Skills Competition and the RAS. I was sure that the students would really appreciate the sponsorship in future.



Agricultural Society Farm Skills Pentathlon Competition winners 1993
about to depart for Melbourne

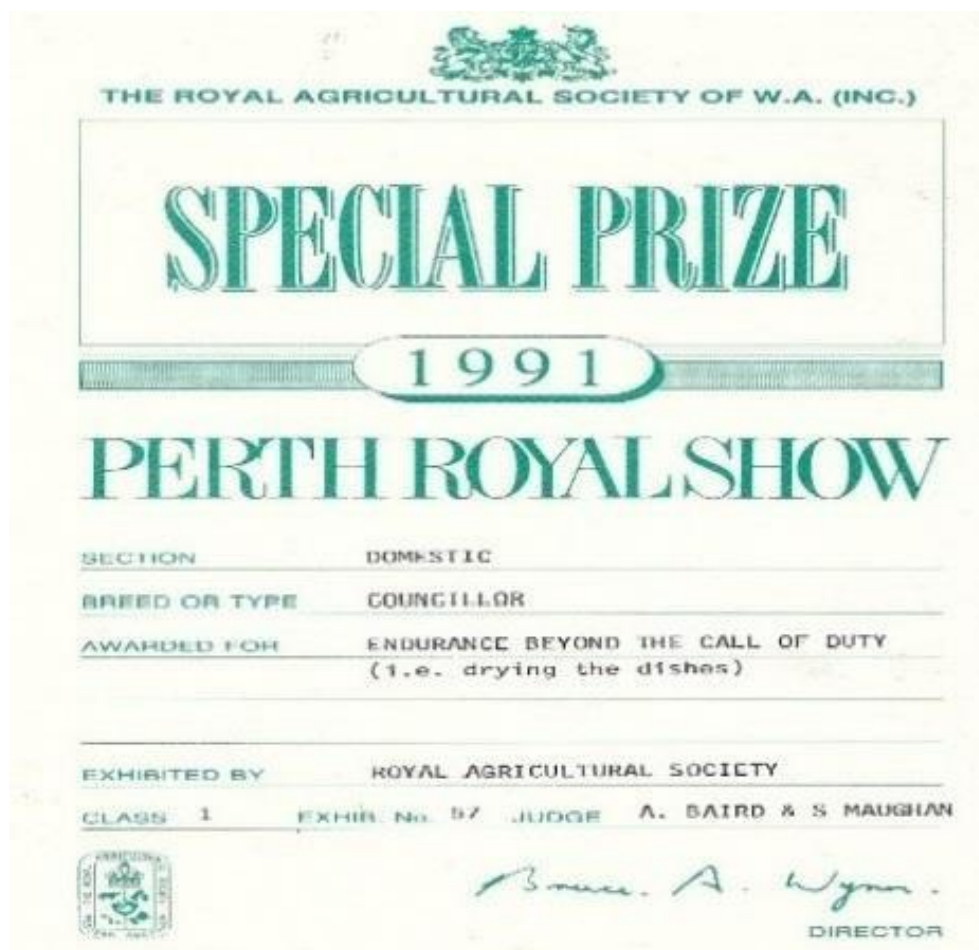
The winning team from Narrogin Agricultural college was made up of Mr Ray Batt (Chaperone from Narrogin College) on left .Councillor in Charge Kevin Cahill and students, Troy Gairdner (East Pingelly), Paul Schilling (Beverly), Cliff Atkinson (Katanning),Anthony Hall (Kendenup), Richard Tophom (Miling)

To change the subject for a moment, all of the people I have mentioned here were Associate members of the Country Tourism Association (CTA) when I was its Chairperson (1984 to 1993). I had the honour of presenting each person and the businesses they represented with Life Membership of the CTA for the manner in which they had supported country tourism over the years, and this obviously had helped me in my endeavours to obtain sponsorship. Mr George Cox and Deluxe Coach Lines had provided transport for delegates to the various places of the Annual General Meetings of CTA across WA. Flag Inns had subsidised accommodation, Greyhound Coach Lines and Ansett Coach Lines also provided transport for delegates and Ansett Airlines had come up with airline tickets to Adelaide. The Farm skills Competition Committee had been treated very well indeed. A year or so later Ansett Airlines changed its name to Airlink and then Qantas appeared on the scene, and it became Qantas link. Cr Michael Jones had taken over from me as I had moved to the Sheep Section and secured this sponsorship until about 2003 when due to cutbacks Qantas withdrew sponsorship. Unfortunately, the Farm skills Competition now lacked a major sponsor and I feel this is a pity because the trips had been wonderful experiences for the winners at a formative time of life.

My son Dean Cahill had been helping me at the Farm Skills Competition as he was able to take his holidays at the time of the competition. He volunteered to produce a computer program using Excel for use in the judging ring and record the Competition results much more promptly. Mrs Jane Battingham who was employed as a RAS Finance Officer advised that she had some knowledge of Excel and with Dean Cahill they liaised each year and updated the program as required. The Farm Skills Competition was the first RAS Competition Section to use a computer for results on the Claremont Showground. The RAS Accountant Mr Rob Coles was able to hire a laptop to use in the main arena. This allowed results to be collated shortly after the Competition finished and the presentation held to allow the student to depart as soon as possible. Dean Cahill offered to computerise the District Display Competition, however Cr Don Stone refused point blank as computers were a no-no for Cr Don Stone and he would not support their use.

Sometimes when a Counsellor was in the office working a RAS staff member would invite them to have a coffee in the kitchen alcove on the ground floor and this happened regularly. Often there would be dirty cups, etc., left in the sink and I would grab a tea towel to help clean up. In 1991 Mrs Agnes Beard who was Pig Section Secretary at the time, was with me having coffee when she disappeared and came back with

an envelope and gave it to me. I opened it up and received a prize card that Agnes and Sandra Maughan had produced. It caused quite a bit of amusement among everyone there. I was tickled with their idea and joined in with the merriment.



Special Prize Domestic Award

In 1975 President Mr Marcus Truby Beck along with his wife Mrs Leone Beck and several other Presidents wives set up a Committee to establish a Miss Showgirl (MS) Competition. Cr Tom Wilding's sister Mrs S Curlewis was the first Chaperone to the girls who were winners from the eight RAS group Competitions across WA.

After several years Mrs Curlewis relinquished the job ,and this was taken over by Mrs Glenys Sanders from Dowerin. 2 years on Mrs Joan Burnett took the Chaperone appointment. Mrs Roz Carter (President Peter Carter's wife) had gathered a few ladies to a Miss Show Competition Committee which had been operating these few years, to look after the

MS Competition Competitors once they arrived in Perth. In 1984 the Sunday Times offered sponsorship of the MS Competition and it was to be known as West Miss Show Girl (WMSG), however this was not all that successful, and sponsorship lapsed. Mrs Margaret Wells later Mrs Margaret Bannister had been to the N. S. W. Royal Easter Show and seen how the system operated over there. It was suggested that the RAS do something similar here in Perth. The first Miss Showgirl was Miss Cheryl Fisher from York in the Central Group and the last show girl from Kellerberrin in Eastern, Miss Tasma Scott. A Miss Show Competition Committee was formed in 1994 with Cr Malcolm Seymour as Chairperson and a Committee to support him. The National Show Girl Competition came to WA in 1996 and Cr Malcolm Henry Seymour and his wife Mrs Germaine Seymour along with the Chaperone of the Interstate Showgirls, Mrs May Hayes Thompson, (wife of Cr Robert Hayes Thompson who was a long serving Councillor and was CIC of the Poultry and Pigeon Section for many years with many show winners to his name) took the Show Girl party to the Midwest Show at Moora and then on to Geraldton and gave them a look at the Northern wheatbelt. Then back to the Claremont Showground to meet up with the WA Showgirls being Chaperoned by Mrs Joan Burnett. Cr Malcolm Seymour suggested that the Miss Showgirls could be placed in open cars and take part in the Grand Parade's around the main arena. This occurred a number of times and then he realised it would be more fitting if a horse-drawn open carriage be used and this became the norm for a number of years. Unfortunately, due to the problem of arranging horses and carriages eventually this procedure was discontinued. When Mrs Joan Burnett retired from the position in 1985 Mrs Glenys Sanders from Dowerin became the Chaperone and following her in 1987 Mrs Rewa Cahill took on the position until the Competition was disbanded in 1999. After a letter to the RAS Council from Mrs Robyn Steel from Southern Cross in which she was quite adamant that things should change as girls with children should not be discriminated against and that it should not be a female dominated Competition. A decision was made by the RAS Council to accept males, and as a result the MS Competition was discontinued. In 2000 a Rural Ambassador (RA) Competition, open to males and females from Agricultural Societies across the State was commenced and the first Competition was won by Mr Daniel Martin from Mount Barker and the RA Competition has continued to this day.

Mrs Pamela Smart was the RAS staff member who looked after this Miss Show Girl Competition for many years finding a sponsoring hotel where the Group winner girls could stay from Friday night and hold the MS judging on the Saturday and return home for work on the Sunday. The

MS Competition was usually several weeks before the PRS as the winners would need to make arrangements to have time off work and attend the PRS for the week as a guest of the RAS. The Showgirl winner was requested to assist with presentations at various Competition Section result functions and other PR jobs throughout the PRS. The winner then competed in an Interstate Miss Show Girl Competition that is rotated around Australia. Incidentally 5 WA girls finished up as National Miss Showgirl.



Miss Showgirl Tasma Scott from Kellerberrin the last show girl representing the North Eastern Districts Council.

In 1984 I was working with Cr Theo Seymour at Log Chopping that was something totally new to me and I soon cultivated a respect for the huge men and the way they wheeled their razor-sharp axe. I found this a very interesting group to be associated with, the axemen have a great respect for Cr Theo Seymour and the job he was doing in trying to better their facilities each year. The following year Cr Theo Seymour introduced a four-tree cutting Competition in the main arena with the axemen cutting a divot into the side of the pole and slipping their standing boards into the divot. Once the third board was in place and standing up the axmen would cut about 0.7 metres (2.5 feet) off the top of the pole. This log chop event proved to be very popular and showed the axemen balancing on these boards being an absolutely marvellous sight. It was announced that in 1986 there would be a Rock Drilling Competition held in the Log Chopping Arena on the Saturday afternoon of the PRS as the Log Chopping finished Friday with a barbecue and presentation of trophies and prize money. This would allow anyone in the rock drilling industry able to compete in rock drilling, as it turned out that drillers were mainly all from the gold mining industry in and around Kalgoorlie and coal mining at Collie. They competed in teams of four. A piece of 18 centimetres (seven inches) diameter steel pipe about 1.2 metres (4 feet) long was filled with concrete and at one end there was a hinged steel flap which meant that as soon as the bit exited the 1.2 metres (4 feet) length of concrete it had bored it struck the plate to announce the winner. This was a very noisy event as large air compressors were required to provide air for the rock drilling hand pieces. It proved to be a fairly popular event with the crowd despite the noise. Obtaining sponsorship proved to be a problem. Cr Theo Seymour had decided that I run this event for him, I will admit I enjoyed the challenge but after three years the Rock Drilling Competition was scratched due to lack of support by the drillers and the exceptional loud noise of the compressors that was deafening.

During the 1980 's Sheaf Tossing was all the rage at country Agricultural Shows throughout the State, and it was decided to have a State final Sheaf Tossing (ST) Competition at the PRS. Cr Don Stone was CIC of this Committee, and I was one of his assistant Councillors along with several other Eastern Districts Display personal. A Sheaf Tossing Association of WA was established in 1984 and Mr Errol Stone (one of Cr Don Stone's sons) of Quairading was Chairman of the Committee and they set about standardising the rules across the State. In 1983 Cr

Don Stone advised us that the World Champion from South Australia would be at the PRS and would visit some country Agricultural Shows. He also advised that the RAS could assist with providing, forks, etc. Cr Don Stone discovered that the Kukerin Agricultural Society had a handy piece of equipment that the RAS were able to borrow. It consisted of two windup television aerials pivoted at either back corner of an (2.4 metres x 2.4 metres (8 feet x 8 feet) trailer which could be towed from place to place. These had a crossbar between them and had a winch attached to each tower. A long measuring tape was attached to this bar on one side so as to be able to measure the height throughout the Sheaf Tossing Competition. The sheaf is constructed to a specified dimensions used at all Sheaf Tossing Competitions across Australia and the pitchfork used is of standard length about 1.5 metres (5 feet) and has only 2 prongs instead of 3 prongs as used on the run of the run of the mill farmers pitchforks, believe you me there is an art in throwing the sheaf. Each Competitor is allowed 3 throws to see if he/ she can remain in the ST Competition. If a sheaf slips off the fork this is counted as a throw. A proper pitchfork had been purchased by the Merredin Agricultural Society and as they had no further use it was donated to the RAS to use in their Competitions.

The straw used is wrapped tightly in a Hessian bag (old wheat bag for preference as it does not break up so quickly) and sewn up tightly. It should not exceed a diameter on the butt end of a minimum 56 centimetres (1.8 feet) and maximum of 66 centimetres (2.1 feet) and, on the tail end a minimum of 40 centimetres (1.3 feet) and a maximum 50 centimetres (1.6 feet) preferably using oaten hay straw but may not always be available. The weight of 3.6 kilograms (7.7 pounds). There is a definite art in throwing the sheaf over the bar and from memory I think the height thrown was just below 15. 2 metres (50 feet). The Eastern group had a number of group winners who went on to be State winners. The first was Mr George Cooper in 1987 from Koorda, a year or so later Mr Allan Gracey from Koorda and Mr Bret Hooper in 1989 from Bruce Rock with a mighty pitch of 14 metres (31.36 feet). The Competition was held in the Showground main arena in the south-east corner on the Saturday afternoon and was very popular for a period until like many things it waned across the State and was discontinued a couple of years later. I do believe several Agricultural Societies do continue to have Sheaf Tossing Competitions.

At the same time a Tug-of-War Competition was introduced with sponsorship from Taylor Woodrow in 1985. It was hoped to get a number of teams from across the city to compete, Cr John William Carstairs was C I C and I was his assisting Councillor. Because we

needed to weigh the Competitors on each team Cr John Carstairs left it to me to bring the sheep weighing crate down from the Sheep Shed so as to weigh each Competitor. We had borrowed a rope from one of the suburban Tug-of-War Clubs. John finished up leaving me to run and organise the Competition along with a RAS staff member Donna Spencer. It never really got off the ground and we could not entice Competitors to compete probably because of football, so after about 3 years we ceased the Competition.

In the late 1970's, early 1980' s Tractor Pulling was emerging as a competitive event across the State drawing large crowds, so naturally it became a must have as an attraction at the PRS as it was possible because of the track. The modified tractors were to pull a special sled with a sliding very large weight at the rear of the sled that could be hydraulically drawn forward on the sled by the tractor driver until it stalled the tractor he/ she was driving, because of the weight transfer towards the back axle of the tractor required so much extra power. There were not a lot of Competitors, probably because of the high cost of modification of tractors. It was a good crowd pleaser while it lasted, however like a lot of these things when the farmers money gets tight these ventures fall by the wayside. The Grylls family of Corrigin along with Kukerin and Kulin people are some I remember as being very competitive at the Royal.

Communication has always been a problem around the Showground no more so than if an emergency was to occur that required evacuation. Considerable money was spent installing a new very updated communication system around the Showground which took 2 years to complete. With controls in the main RAS office and another control box up in Asset services. This system was added to the main grandstand building and PA broadcast box was set up under the main grandstand on the western end which covered events going on in the main arena. For many years the RAS has paid to bring commentator Mr Angus Lane over from the Queensland and in fact he has a tremendous knowledge of equestrian events and riders across Australia and the Show System and also a very distinctive voice which is very readily received by the general public, Angus makes a point of interviewing many show personnel while here. This PA system gives an excellent coverage to all corners of the Showground ,and I hope never has to be used in an emergency.

From 1986 to 1994 following Don Bannister's death in 1985 I was given the responsibility of looking after the Apiculture Section which was held

in the Centenary Pavilion adjacent to the Floriculture and occupied the full length of the building down the northern side and was set up two trestles wide down the length of the building. This was a challenge but as there was a working Beekeeper Committees I was able to pick up the thread of things fairly quickly and found that there was a competitive Honey Display Section and then the overall display of honey products, whilst not large in numbers the members of the Committee were very enthusiastic particularly a Mr Eric Baille and a Mr John Smith of South Perth whom I had met as he was a schoolteacher at Westonia and I had played Badminton against him in Merredin many years ago.



Apiculture Display 1984

Mr John Smith had bees in his backyard at South Perth, I rather enjoyed working with these gentleman and the Committee. We set out to enhance the Honey Section and had great support from a Mr Eddie Plankton from Wescobee who assisted with providing bulk honey and honey associated literature. One year a live beehive was placed in the West wall of the building with a hole so as to allow the honeybees to go in and out of the hall. This caused great interest from show patrons. At the time a 200 litre (44 gallons) drum of honey was worth about \$800.00. On the family farm we used to often see the trucks loaded with beehives setting out for the flowering plants in the springtime heading towards

Kalgoorlie or the sandplain east of Southern Cross. The Honey Committee decided to introduce a beeswax carving Competition which was advertised across the State through the rural Press , I also approached some of the major Hotels in Perth to see if their Apprentices would be interested in the Beeswax Competition. I told them that the Honey Section would supply the Beeswax, and this was done for a year or two and then it was suggested that instead of beeswax the Apprentices use ice carving which was part of their trade. This added a new dimension and reasonable participation was received. It is interesting to note that for the final 2 years of the Beeswax Competition it was won by a lady from a restaurant in Bunbury entering her beeswax carving. Lack of entries became a problem, so the Beeswax Competition was cancelled after 5 years. Honey tasting was very popular, however it was difficult at times to obtain the popular lines such as Marri as it was usually in short supply and dependent upon the season. The Bread Baking industry used to have ovens on the western end of the Districts Display stands in the Centenary Pavilion and they baked buns there as part of their demonstrations. The trick was to get some fresh hot buns and come around to the Honey stand and spread honey on the bun. I was moved from the Honey Section in 1997 and Cr Paul Lewin Carter replaced me.

Exhibition space or lack of it has always been a problem for RAS and the matter was discussed at a RAS Council meeting early in 1998. A proposal was put to build a new building adjacent to the end of the Robinson Pavilion extension and demolish the ramshackle old Property Service building and concrete water tank. This was enthusiastically received as a result of seeing what could be done when the Robinson Pavilion extension was built. To everyone's surprise the RAS Council carried a motion to spend up to \$400,000.00 on this new building to be ready for the 1998 PRS. When I walked out of the RAS Council meeting with Jim Webster he said to me, Kevin I never thought that I would come to a RAS Council meeting today and approve to spend the sum of \$400,000.00 on a new building. I guess we are doing the right thing he said. Never in his wildest dreams would he have thought that the building would be named after him in recognition of his sudden election by Counsellors to the position of RAS President in 1987 to 1989 when Vice President Cr Don Bannister suddenly died. It was traditional for the Vice President to take on the President's position, but Cr Don Bannister had died a few months before his presidential term was due to commence. By joining together, the Jim Webster Pavilion, the Robinson Pavilion ,and the Silver Jubilee Pavilion it provided a very large exhibition area which was to be known as the Royal Agricultural Society

Exhibition Centre to attract functions to the Showground. In 2001 an extension of the cafeteria, toilets, several offices and a servery area between the Jim Webster Pavilion and the Robinson Pavilion was completed. To achieve this building program in 1999 several buildings needed to be demolished namely the Sheepmen's Bar and the MacPherson Pavilion in which ran across between Viveash Avenue and Waylen Avenue. The demolishing of the Sheepmen's Bar which being in the proximity of the sheep in the Robinson Pavilion was removing probably one of the most popular meeting places and watering holes on the Showground. The only place to come anywhere near this for popularity was the Cattlemen's bar upstairs in the northern end of the Silver Jubilee Pavilion. By removing these buildings, it opened the Showground up for the public and substantially assisted movement around the Showground. This sort of action would happen in the future as more buildings would be demolished as part of the Showground building program. The Jim Webster Pavilion has some very popular exhibitions during the PRS, and it is almost impossible to move through the building. I was surprised when the first time I walked into the Cattlemen's Bar in the Silver Jubilee Pavilion to find that behind the bar was a cousin of mine Ms Patsy Carter and her sister Molly who had been working there for many, many years and actually retired about 10 years after I had discovered them there. Such a small world.

In 1989 saw me appointed to the Wool Committee to work with Cr Ellie Eton who had taken over from Cr Jim Harcourt Shepherd who had held the position for about 20 years. It turned out that I knew a few members on the Wool Committee as they were farmers and personnel from the stock firms who made up this Committee. It appeared there was dissension among some of the exhibitor members and stock firm representatives who felt that the boundaries used for defining where the entries came from across W A needed changing. Things got a little bit heated, and questions asked as to who sets the boundaries, who controls them and why they could not be changed. Being new I could see no reason why we should not do something about it, so I offered to prepare some information for the next Wool Committee meeting. I went home and obtained a map of WA with the rainfall isohyets. On this I outlined the shire boundaries that were used by the RAS to determine the wool zones across WA. It was plain to see that in some cases an Agricultural Society wool zone would cross several rainfall isolates and several Shire boundaries. I drew up a new map basically using great Eastern Highway as a North South dividing line and then adjusted the zones so that zones between high rainfall isoyhetes were cut off as the rainfall diminished when you went inland. I adjusted the number of

Shires within the rainfall isolates as best as possible so the so-called Blue

Wools would be separated from the Red Wools of inland WA. It took some hours to do. I took my maps along to the next Wool Committee meeting and Cr Ellie Eaton gave me the floor to present my case. To my surprise it was very well received and as a result the wool zones across WA were changed. At the RAS Council meeting the following month Cr Ellie Eaton put the proposal to Council and was endorsed. After the meeting Cr Charles Robert McGlew said to me you know Kevin those boundaries have not been changed since about 1932. I then said to him obviously it was about time something was done to erase the anomaly and he said I guess so. At the time the Wool Committee was discussing whether or not to introduce micron testing of the fleece in the Wool Competition. After the 1990 PRS it was noted that the boundary changes had been very well received and I then thought I would push for the micron testing. Cr Ellie Eaton was keen on the idea and so were several other members of the Wool Committee. The problem was who and how was this to be introduced.

The initial micron tests were incorporated into the judging process and a new judging sheet was compiled to be distributed to Exhibitors. Since this was done by hand, it was an onerous job taking a large amount of time, so naturally there was a need to investigate how to computerise the process.

I had been using computerised wool testing in my ram breeding program on the farm for almost 20 years and felt sure that something could be done to introduce this concept into the judging of the wool. Cr Ellie Eaton had been in touch with the Australia Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) in South Fremantle and they would be prepared to test the wool for us. Initially the fleeces were consigned to the Showground. Each fleece was unrolled, and an attempt made to take a sample from the same place on each fleece. The sample was placed in a plastic bag, identified, and delivered to the AWTA for testing. Once this was done the bags were returned to the Wool Pavilion at the Showground and the wool test results were listed against each fleece on display.

The computerised results were fairly well received by all Exhibitors however there was one Exhibitor who challenged the results and demanded a re-test in the first year, as he felt sure his fleece could not be 28 microns. Samples again taken were duly packaged up and taken to AWTA for retesting. The results came back to show a variation

between 26 and 28 microns which was in line with how most of his other wool had tested. The exhibitor did not show wool again at the PRS.



Wool Display showing original wool boxes of cardboard as used until glass cases were introduced by Councillor Michael Jones in the 1990 's.

In those days the Wool Display tables were pipe or angle iron constructed frames that had three steps up their width about 38 centimetres (15 inches) high and 2.4 metres (8 feet) long and onto these shelves the assembled cardboard wool boxes were placed with the fleeces in them, and the cards displayed inside the bottom edge. Naturally there were about 300 of these boxes set up which depending upon entries needed to be folded into their rectangular shape and placed on the frames throughout the ,Quite a time-consuming job. For one wool presentation, either Cr Ellie Eaton had forgotten, or else Property Services had forgotten that some tables and chairs were required in the presentation area of the Wool Pavilion. I said I knew where there were some spare trestles and made post-haste to get several from behind the Centenary Pavilion where they had been used for the construction of the displays the week before. They were bought down to the Wool Pavilion. I forgot to take them back and then when Property Services as it was

known heard about this, they tore strips off me and said under no circumstances was I to do such a thing again as they were unable to ascertain where the tables had gone to from behind the Centenary Pavilion. It turns out that if tables, etc., are ordered for a pavilion for the PRS that's where they must remain for the whole period and not be moved from one pavilion to the other. I did not agree with this as I felt this loads costs to a Competition Section for the whole period of the PRS when in fact they may not have required the trestles, etc., for more than 3 or 4 days for set up and could then be removed to the next job. I lost the argument and I think it still goes on even today. I left the Wool Section in 1994.

In 1991 to 1993, a program called Farm Day was introduced by the RAS Council. The idea being that various farming activity programs would be held on the main arena and the public would be invited into the main arena to watch what was going on. Cr Trevor Ernest Barwick was appointed CIC of this Committee along with myself and several others including Cr John Wilding and Cr Robert Hayes Thompson. Cr Trevor Barwick asked me for contacts that I knew through farm skills and what other people I could round up to assist with some of the events. These events included a blacksmith shoeing horses; horses being used to Snig logs around the ground in a position to be stacked (this was organised and managed by Cr Robert Hayes Thomson); Cooperage, which is the making of wine barrels, etc., and is where the timber is shaped and then iron bands are placed over the timber when the base and top are fitted to hold the barrel in shape. There was Sheaf tossing, a cow being milked, and pens of pigs and sheep and some stalls. The only problem that we had was that we could not get the public to enter the ring and observe what was going on. The 2 or 3 gates into the ring were opened out into the oncoming public thorough fare and signs asking them to enter the arena. Over about a 3 or 4 year period the public participation was so disappointing the event was scrapped.

I was appointed to the Pig Section in 1984 alongside Cr Tom Cunningham who had been CIC for a number of years. It was good working with him, and I took over as CIC in 1988. Cr Tom Cunningham moved on to the Cattle Section. I knew a number of pig Exhibitors again from JF in particular Mr William (Bill) Scott who farmed at Doodlakine and had a Berkshire stud and a Large White stud. We would have the judging of various classes on the west side of the Pig Pavilion in a set of yards that was borrowed from the Bunbury Agriculture Society each year. RAS did consider buying some yards to use as a judging ring and sale ring, etc., later in the week, however since the yards were available

from Bunbury and they did not mind us borrowing them RAS decided to continue down this path. On the south end of the Pig Pavilion there were four painted wooden buildings used as Bunk rooms one either side of the central entrance into the Pavilion, the right-hand one had a kitchen and several bunk rooms whilst the left-hand one was all bunk rooms for the pig Exhibitors. This meant they were completely self-sufficient on the Showground. The partners/ wives of the pig Exhibitors had taken to promoting pork by way of a sit-down area to the right inside the Pig Pavilion and cooked pork with its variations for the public to taste which was well received. There were showers and toilet facilities on the northern end of the Silver Jubilee Pavilion. Also, on this end of the building there were steps leading to what is known as the Cattleman's Bar which is just across the way. The auction was held on the last Friday of the PRS and was fairly well supported. On several occasions Exhibitors took a sow and a boar with the aid of a Walking board (shields about 1 metre (3 foot) long and 1/2 metre (2 foot) wide to guide the animals around the laneways and spelling the animals at various locations. This was well received by patrons. The number of pig Exhibitors had been diminishing because of disease management. Around that time at the Stockman's Bar, it was possible to get baskets of various eats and a thermos of hot drinks for morning and afternoon tea for the Counsellor's and staff working at the Trade Cattle and Pig Sections. This was prepared by the ladies who worked behind the bar. .

In 1990 the RAS did not have a competitive Pig Section probably the first time since its formation in May 1831 which now was a true reflection of the enlightened period Agriculture was going through where disease was of paramount importance and many studs were not prepared to mix their pigs with others. Hence lack of entries.

Elders Burnett Moore was a new livestock company now selling livestock in conjunction with Elders. They came up with the idea of holding a Bacon Carcase Competition and had approached the RAS President Jim Horwood in 1991 to enquire about holding this on the Showground. They were advised to come and discuss it with me, if I thought it was possible to hold the competition on the Showground, bearing in mind that most of the original pig pens had been removed and the Pig Pavilion now had rabbits, emus, alpaca, ostrich, and deer on display. It was possible that something could be done with the Trade cattle yards as the Trade cattle went to abattoirs on the Monday of Show week.

I was home on the farm doing some scarifying in a back paddock and I saw a white Holden driving along the road at a fairly slow pace. Usually,

a sign that the person driving wanted to speak with you , so I stopped adjacent to the car and walked to the fence. Low and behold it was Mr Brian Branch and he had Mr Alistair Moore with him. I knew Mr Brian Branch when he was in Elders Merredin, and now as Elders pig Specialist for WA he introduced me to Mr Alistair Moore who was a partner in E.B.M. He stated what they would like to do. Mr Brian Branch asked would it be feasible to hold the pigs in the cattle pens at the Claremont Showground. I became fairly enthusiastic about the prospect and said that when I was down for the next RAS Council meeting, I would look into the matter and work out a program as to how we could fit this in. I felt it could be done.

How was I going to do this? I rang my good friend Mr Paul Jones at Cyclones and asked him would he please come to the Claremont Showground to see if he could help me in any way. We took all of the measurements and estimated the materials that would be required, and Mr Paul Jones said that he was prepared to help me by rolling the Ushaped pipe sections that we would need to weld under the 50 gates to keep the pigs in and would also provide us with an adequate number of roles of plain wire to be strung around the base of the pens. I was somewhat overwhelmed by his generosity, but he said that the company was a good supporter of the RAS, and he would be happy to see the Bacon Carcase Competition come to fruition. Well, I had all the required materials so there were no excuses and Mr Brian Branch, and EBM were pleased that it would become a reality at the 1993 PRS. A Bacon Carcass Competition Committee was formed to develop the respective classes rules and regulations conditions of entry in the form of a Catalogue that was sent out via the RAS and EBMs mailing list to most pig farmers in WA. Members of the Committee were Mr Brian Branch and Mr George Greaves of EBM (until he resigned and later Mr Johnny Watkins of EBM took his place), the original Pig Committee members Mr Reg Maddock, Mr Tom Bradshaw, Mr Bill Scott, Mr Brian Cameron, Mr John Noonan from the Department of Agriculture. Cr Ellie Eaton, Mrs Lyn McPhail, and Mr Graeme Smythe.

Mr Paul Jones had all of the Cyclone products delivered to the Showground by the beginning of August 1991, it was now up to me to organise and get the required facility set up. I organised a weekend when my four sons Grant, Peter, Mark and Dean Cahill were available. I loaded up the farm Oxy equipment and electric welders plus fencing tools and we headed to Perth on the Friday night. Early to the Showground on Saturday morning we got stuck into it with

Grant and Dean Cahill welding the bottom rung on 50 odd gates and Peter and Mark Cahill and I got on with putting all the wires around the base of the other pens. Rewa Cahill brought us down lunch, and we had a break for a while before getting stuck into it again and I must say that by the time we knocked off at dark we were well on our way. Sunday. we returned again and by late afternoon the job was completed, and we packed up and headed back to the farm.

The way the program was planned for the PRS was a lot easier because of the following procedure. What was to happen was that the Commercial Pig Section entries would come in Friday afternoon into the Pig Pavilion and Trade Cattle would come into the cattle pens also by 1.00 pm. The Trade Cattle were weighed Friday and judged on Saturday and on Sunday my Section Secretary Mrs Dawn Cook and I would prepare the Sale Catalogue for the Cattle Auction to be held in the cattle sale ring on Monday morning. The order of sale was rotated each year for the livestock agents and this order was printed in the Sale Catalogue, as soon as the auction was completed, they were to be trucked out and the RAS ground staff would clean the soiled straw out of the pens and prepare them for the pigs arriving on Tuesday. Due to the reduced Exhibitors and entry numbers participating in the Friday Stud Pig Sale it had been cancelled and was held outside on the West side of Pig Pavilion using pig yards hired from the Bunbury Agricultural Society for judging and sale purposes. Some Carcass Competition entries could be received on the Monday evening and the balance of the entries needed to be in by 8.00 am Tuesday morning. The portable sheep yards were set up between the Pig Pavilion and the cattle yards and those pig Carcass Competition entries that were in the shed were weighed starting at 5.00 am Tuesday morning. All of the entries needed to be weighed and penned so that a Sale Catalogue could be produced in time and used at the auction starting at 3.00 pm that afternoon. The idea was that as the pig auction would be finished early afternoon at the Midland Junction saleyards the buyers would be brought to the Showground by EBM personnel for the afternoon sale. Unfortunately, Mrs Dawn Cook and I were running a little bit late producing the Sale Catalogue and Mr Alistair Moore was quite annoyed with me for this, however I begged some consideration as we had really been under the pump getting everything completed. At about 3.10 pm the Sale Catalogues showed up from the Office and were distributed to the buyers and auctioneers and the sale got underway and, proved to be quite successful. Once completed the pigs were loaded onto a waiting truck and taken to Watsons Processing Plant at Spearwood to be slaughtered the next day.

The Carcass Competition did not attract as many Exhibitors as wished so the Pig Committee initially had entries picked up at Midland saleyards as pig breeders delivered their commercial pigs to the Midland saleyards for a Tuesday sale, and arrangements were made for them to be transported to the Showground. This did not seem to improve things, so it was decided to take the Carcass Competition from the Showground and hold it at the Midland saleyards. This meant that I and my staff needed to be at the Midland saleyards by 5.00 am Tuesday morning to receive, weigh and pen all the pig entries for judging. Dean Cahill (my son) was recording all of the entry details into a prepared Excel sheet and once receivals had closed the information was printed out and taken down to the EBM offices in Clayton Street in Midland where the Sale Catalogues were printed off and assembled. Once the commercial pig sale was over and judging on the hoof completed the buyers came over to buy the entries in The RAS Carcass Competition. Mrs Dawn Cook came down from the Claremont Showground mid-morning and bought morning tea and lunch that was provided to helpers, EBM staff and the potential buyers. This venture was tried for 2 two years and then we gave the idea away as we could not seem to attract enough entries to warrant its continuation. This I thought was a shame, but you cannot get blood out of stone. In 1995 the Pig Committee decided to revert back to just having an exhibition of pigs and to support this Mr Bill and Mrs Jan Scott and family provided Large Whites from their 'Kookaburra Stud' and Mr Alan and Mrs Jo Webse and family provided Berkshires from their 'Kangaroo Valley Stud'. Between them they would stage a representative Exhibition including sows with litters which they did for many, many years and continued on in the Tom Wilding Pavilion. Ultimately it was agreed by the RAS to assist them with the cost of this activity. They have both now retired and another pig breeder has been found to supply a range of pigs. This means that the very popular Pat A Pig Competition that was started in the 1980 's now continues with a sticker been given to youngsters taking part. There is still a guess the weight of the Baconer Competition.

In 1985/ 1986 RAS President Peter Thomas Carter and the Council staged the first Royal Show Ball held at Government House. This was the venue for several years. The Ball was held around the end of July each year and went from Government House to the Embassy Ballroom in Dowd Street, Welshpool after the original Embassy Building in Perth closed. The Embassy Building became the Wesfarmers headquarters on the corner of William Street and the Esplanade, Perth. Many older generations would have danced there whilst the Embassy Ballroom was

in this location, and in fact I went there to the Elders Staff Ball that I attended in 1958/ 1959. The Dowd Street Embassy Ballroom premises were a reasonable venue though parking was a problem and to add insult to injury a number of RAS Counsellors cars were broken into which did not go down too well. It was suggested to use the Silver Jubilee Pavilion on the Showground to save costs and have plenty of parking area, however we soon found this had shortcomings. One problem was dancing on the concrete. Even though Wheaties were scattered on the floor it did not solve the problem and another problem was the large expanse of the building which meant it was quite cold. The following year The RAS Council agreed to support Mrs Margaret Bannister and the Royal Show Ball Committee with the hiring of a portable wooden dance floor and even a couple of industrial heaters. The heaters proved to be noisy and not appreciated on one hand but welcomed on the other. The number of attendees was a little disappointing. A hotel venue was tried and then the Pagoda Ballroom in South Perth was used for a number of years until in the late 1980 s . The event was cancelled due to its high cost and the fact that the support had fallen away. During its time it was thought to be an avenue of offering something for the RAS Councillors and the membership, but for country people with travel and accommodation for one night it was quite easy to understand why members did not support the venture because of the cost involved. It was deemed as not being practical to hold the Royal Show Ball during the PRS.

As the years went by a number of RAS Presidents tried different measures and events to bring the Counsellors together on either the night before or the night after the Council meeting as some of these ventures included a bulk booking of tickets for Councillors and their wives/ partners to attend various productions in the city and on other occasions Counsellors went on either the morning before Council or late afternoon to places like the Swan Brewery in Cannington, and the Submarine and Fish research facilities in Fremantle. The CBH grain terminals at Welshpool and Kwinana, and the Joe White Malt brewing facility at Welshpool. These opportunities were welcomed by the Councillors as otherwise one would not have visited these interesting places. In those days Council commenced at the Showground with lunch at midday and the meeting started at 1.00 pm. I still think this was the best procedure because it allowed several Sectional Committee meetings to be held prior to Council or a meeting or two late in the afternoon before going home. Sometimes these visiting events commenced at 9.00 am and back to the Showground in time for lunch or finishing the Council meeting early to get away.

An event held early in the year after the resumption of meetings was a friendly cricket match between the Counsellors and RAS staff. The ground staff would prepare a wicket in the main arena for use, and I will not say that we had Rafferty's rules for we had the RAS rules which the Counsellors and ground staff adhered to because the game was meant to be a social occasion. Some of the rules included that no one could get out unless they had made one run so this gave everyone a chance of spending some time at the crease. Sometimes it was painful waiting for that run to be made. The ladies were also encouraged to play, and this was fairer for them. It was also okay for some of the senior Counsellors to drag in a son which added a bit of fire to the game, and some of them of course were good cricketers. Traditionally a barbecue was held afterwards to which Counsellor's wives and partners joined in along with the wives and partners of the ground staff. For jovially there was a presentation function for various activities of the afternoon and strangely enough I have a memento of a particular cricket game. It is the actual ball that was used which is mounted in a fancy wooden stand and has a plaque saying it was in 1992 and was for the 'Catch of the Day'. Every time I look at it my right-hand hurts. I was fielding at point and Mr Gary Shirley the Property Services Manager was batting and he belted the ball at a terrific pace towards me. I stuck my right hand out at full-length and low and behold the ball stopped in my hand, it hurt so much I was on the point of crying as others were congratulating me on a magnificent catch and I said do not be silly that was an absolute fluke.

After the game was over, we would have a barbecue and usually some trophies were presented to various people for their efforts on the ground and at that time there was a very good carpenter working in Property Services who made most of the trophies. These were good times we had with this activity. However, in the mid-1990 s it was thought the cricket match was a bit unfair for the females for there was now 4 female Councillors on Council plus the wives/ partners of Counsellors and RAS staff so it was decided to have a bowling afternoon at a Suburban Bowling club whereby more people could participate. One year Cr Bruce Gordon Campbell who had a home on a fairly large block, which had a tennis court and large area of gardens was coerced by Cr Margaret Bannister who by now had a small Event Committee to look after this event asked Cr Bruce Campbell would he allow the RAS to have this social event at his property. Cr Bruce Campbell agreed, and Cr Margaret Bannister and her Events Committee set up a big range of games to play, etc. This was followed by a barbecue and a good time

was had by all with many thanks to Cr Bruce Campbell from everyone for his hospitality.



'Catch of the Day' Trophy 1992

It appeared that the management of the Governor's Cup was left to the RAS President who would call a meeting if some decision was to be made in the process for the results of the Cup. The results were being handled by Mr Ron Bartlett whose responsibility it was to collate the results of all PRS Sections that were eligible and do the calculations to find a winner of the Governor's Cup and then ring the winner Friday evening and asked them to be at the Showground for lunchtime on the Saturday for the presentation. This had been going on for many years and was okay until there was a glitch, when RAS President Jim Webster called a meeting of Counsellors who expressed interest after a Council meeting had finished to help make a decision on a problem in the Horse Section that had arisen. Mrs Eileen Matthews was now assisting Mr Ron Bartlett and eventually took over his position when he retired and found herself in a difficult position to finalise these results on several occasions. In fact, some Friday nights it was after 9.00 pm before she

had the results and then had to make contact with the winner. I had noticed her working back to complete this and gave her a hand to check results as it was a very onerous job on her own. It was decided to set up a Governor's Cup Committee of which I became Chairperson (2002 to 2007).

Cr John Wilding had been elected as Vice President of the RAS in 1993 and consequently he needed to be replaced as CIC of the Trade Cattle Committee. I was asked to fill this position and found that I had a fairly large and enthusiastic Cattle Committee comprising Mrs Leslie Phillips, Mrs Judy Hebiton, (Judy Hebiton started stewarding in Trade Cattle when Cr Colin Pearse was CIC in the 1970 s then she worked with Cr John Wilding for 10 years before I took over cattle from 1993 to 1998 when I went to the Sheep Section. Mrs Judy Hebiton continued with Cr William John (Bill) Trend for a few years (30 years or more). The Committee also included Mr Ray Roediger, Mr Mel Morris from Elders, Mr Glenn Smith from AUS Meat, Mr John Wirth from Landmark, Mr Dave Wood, Mr Keith Taylor from R T C, Mr Max Cunnington, Mr Andrew Cabassi, Cr Michael Jones and Cr Dudley Frank Preston; Mr Brian McIntyre from the Department of Agriculture who looked after the computer scoring and prepared the results using a number of assistants. Mr Simon Wilding son of Past President John Wilding whose job was mouthing all of the animals entered when we were inspecting, branding, and numbering them. I was soon to find out that there was a major problem in running this Competition as the Robbs jetty Abattoirs had had a major fire and the works had been closed down indefinitely. My problem was to find somewhere to slaughter the trade cattle entries at the forthcoming 1994 PRS for the Competition to continue. What a headache this was because most abattoirs had limited chilling space because the carcasses were either delivered to the butcher shops around the metropolitan area or the carcass was boxed up on a daily basis. My problem was to find somewhere with freezers large enough to handle up to 300 beasts from the time they were slaughtered on the Tuesday until the Friday when they could be delivered to the purchaser. This was after the viewing and announcement of winners and the Judge's comments given on Thursday morning. I rang most abattoirs in near proximity to the Showground and finally settled with Tip Top Abattoir at Wooroloo and also the Wooroloo Abattoir of Craig Mostyn located next door. The only problem here was that the Tip Top Abattoir could not handle heavyweight carcasses, so I arranged to have them killed at the Wooroloo Abattoir. It turned out that the Tip Top Abattoir had more chiller space than the Wooroloo Abattoir so the only thing to do was to arrange for the heavyweight carcasses to be transported

about 457 metres (500 yards) to the Tip Top Abattoir freezers next door. Fortunately, there were usually only about 25 to 30 heavyweight carcasses, so I was able to make arrangements with Innis Freezer Transport (a company with freezer trucks that delivered to the butcher shops in the city) and I explained my predicament. They came up with the idea that if I could organise some staff who could meet at Wooroloo Abattoir at midnight on the Wednesday night, they would have 2 freezer vans there to load the carcasses and transport them next door and have them hung. Half a dozen members of my Committee volunteered to do this work and spared me the necessity of going to Wooroloo then back to the Showground. This meant that the carcasses would be judged in both abattoirs on Wednesday and then be assembled together in the Tip Top Abattoir for us to place prizes, and the photos of the live animals taken before slaughter and their complete kill sheets ready for the viewing at 9.00 am in the Tip Top Abattoir on the Thursday morning. I was prepared to pay for this job as part of my Trade Cattle Section expenses but much to my pleasure Innis Freezer Transport was quite happy to settle for 4 tickets for their staff to attend the PRS. I asked the RAS President John Wilding if he would write a letter of appreciation to Innis Freezer Transport for their help and cooperation for this successful operation.

The highlight of the Trade Cattle Competition was the Monday morning auction of all of the cattle that were in the Competition. I said highlight because everyone was anxious to see what sort of money the Grand Champions steer or heifer of the PRS was to make. The amount paid was unrealistic in the extreme but seen as a big promotional exercise by the butcher that finally made the purchase. Dual sets of Grand Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons were always purchased and naturally one set was retained by the Exhibitors however the other set was distributed to those butchers who purchased these cattle because they were used as part of their business promotion in recognition of the money out laid. I saw a Grand Champion steer make \$9,000.00 one year which apart from the joy of the Exhibitor it was a big plus for the particular breed type of the animal. There were regular butchers who supported the sale year after year and when asked stated that it was an avenue of buying a top-quality product for their business and was good promotion. The stock companies used a rotation each year as to which auctioneer would commence the sale and this again was a promotional exercise for the stock firm concerned. There was a Parader's Competition held as part of an educational program that was managed and ran enthusiastically by Cr Michael Jones who made a point of approaching all Agricultural Colleges across the State and asking them

to support this Competition. It became a learning tool for the young people handling livestock, many of whom would do it for life. The Colleges took up this Competition with zest and it ultimately led to most Colleges establishing a cattle stud across the various breeds. This ultimately led to over 100 entries from this source and also a continued entry by some of the trade cattle Exhibitors. There was one problem that this Competition to this day, which has not been solved and that is the tremendous bond set up by the students with the cattle they have raised all year particularly with the girls and many a tear is shed when the reality of these animals going to slaughter hits home. In my time we made it a rule that the students only bought their animals to the trade cattle pens and then one of the Stewards would take over and lead the animal into the ring to be auctioned. To provide the animals for the Colleges to take on and prepare for the Competition most breeders were happy to provide these for the schools not only as an educational tool but a promotion for their breed and this was recognised when the animals were sold. The Parader's Competition animals are housed down in the Cattle Lanes on the Showground and most schools used their allocated location there to promote their particular College. Once the auction was completed the cattle were trucked to Wooroloo for slaughter.

Cr Michael Jones put a lot of time and money into this venture and his dedication must be appreciated for his effort in this direction. In fact, this was recognised by the Education Department of Western Australia on 21 November 1995 with a presentation of a Certificate by Mr Julian Kreig and also at the same time I received one for the establishment of the Agricultural colleges and Schools Farm Skills Competition in 1990. This was done at the Agricultural Colleges and Schools Competition luncheon function after the completion of the Competition where presentations were made to the winning Colleges.

Thursday morning of Show week was an early start as the trade cattle had been slaughtered at Tip Top and Craig Mostyn Abattoirs at Wooroloo on Tuesday, hung in the freezer, and judged on Wednesday.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Honours
the Contribution
of

KEVIN CAHILL

Royal Agricultural Society Counsellor

for his contribution to Agricultural Education

as Organiser and Initiator of

Farm Skills Competition

and

Agricultural Schools Competition

21 November 1995



Blair
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Education Department Acknowledgement Certificate

On Thursday morning some of the committee who assisted at Wednesday judging stayed at El Caballo Resort located nearby that night. I started in the Tip Top Abattoir freezer with them at 5.00 am to place all of the judging sheets, prize ribbons, placing cards and photos of the animal live on the now halved and quartered carcasses which needed to be done by 9.00 am when Exhibitors and others would arrive by bus at the Abattoir to find the results and inspect carcasses and listen to the Judges' comments.

There was a new technology being developed called Viser Scan by the Queensland University and the Cattle Committee decided to invite the technician a Mr Cabassi to come over to our inspection day and demonstrate how this process could be used for the future benefit of the cattle industry. I believe it was the first time shown in WA. On several occasions Mrs Dawn Cook and I and the Committee tried to organise a seminar for the Exhibitors or anyone else who wished to come along called the 'Paddock to the Plate' seminar held in the Silver Jubilee Pavilion's mezzanine room on the right-hand side up the stairs. Speakers provided were aligned with the industry including the Australian Manager of Sizzler Restaurants. He had been coming to Perth to talk about the steaks they preferred to use in their restaurants and how they selected them. We also had several vets and animal health people to give a talk. Unfortunately, these people were not very well supported which was a disappointment considering the time and effort in organising such an event ,so we had no option but to cancel this type of event.

I must mention here that some of the Trade Cattle Committee members had gone to the Abattoirs by 7.00 am on Tuesday morning to assist with the drafting and throughput of the animals for slaughter and they stayed at the Trade Cattle Committees expense at El Cabello Resort on the Tuesday and Wednesday night. After the carcass inspection was over, I quickly gathered things up and then headed for Watsons at Spearwood where the Trade Pig Committee members had gathered for the judging of the trade pig carcasses that had been slaughtered and hung on the Wednesday. Finally, back to the Showground for it was now necessary for Mrs Dawn Cook and I to prepare for the cattle presentation on Friday morning and the pig presentation on Friday afternoon in the Number 2 Councillors room upstairs on the left side in the Silver Jubilee Pavilion.

This arrangement for the Trade Cattle Competition I thought was okay and was possibly the only way I could do things, however the butchers who bought the cattle had been complaining about for some time that

they wished to slaughter the cattle they purchased in their own abattoir. They objected to paying to have their animals slaughtered in an opposition abattoir that we the R A S Cattle Committee had chosen ,so that we could have Exhibitor carcass inspections. If the kill was in their own abattoir the Exhibitors would be welcome to have an inspection there but of course many of them were at the PRS so this was not practical and provided no Exhibitor Comparison of beasts from various Exhibitors.

The Tip Top Abattoir was sold prior to the PRS, and I had arrived at the Showground in the week prior to the PRS as I usually do to discover I had 269 trade cattle entries and no readily available abattoir to slaughter them in. I spoke with RAS Director Bruce Wynn and President John Wilding and said I did not know what I was going to do. They said no doubt that I will work things out. I went home to my residence in Perth that night and developed a hair brain idea in mind and sat down and wrote out my plan as to how we could get out of trouble. I had asked the Trade Cattle Committee to be at the ground early for a meeting and had photocopied my notes off for each one to read. I requested no comments until everyone had read the paperwork. The Committee then had a discussion and practically everyone agreed that it would never work. The idea was that the buyers could take their cattle back to their respective abattoir across the State and RAS would provide a judging team to drive from one abattoir to the next judging the carcasses after starting in the South-west at Walsh's Abattoir, Bunbury, and finishing up at Roediger's Abattoir, Northam. I said nothing ventured nothing gained, leave it to me I will contact all the abattoirs and see what I can arrange. Please come back to a meeting at 12.00 noon and we will discuss matters further. I immediately got on the phone and explained the predicament I was in ,and that the solution would partly satisfy everyone's wishes and would allow the Trade Cattle Competition to continue. I rang each abattoir one after another and everyone agreed to my idea. This of course would mean that I would need to do something about transport because Treasures Transport had been doing the RAS transport of sheep and cattle for many, many years. Mr Colin Treasure understood my situation as he could not cover all abattoirs so I rang Mr John Mitchell at Mitchell Transport and he agreed to share the transport with Mr Colin Treasure, and he would transport the animals to the furthest abattoirs away from Perth. I spoke to some of our Judges who were on the Trade Cattle Committee, and they agreed that if the RAS provided a car to travel to Bunbury and return to Perth. I would organise a motel for the Judges to stay at and be at the first abattoir, Walsh's Abattoir by 5.00 am to start the judging. They would then progressively

move up from one abattoir to the next and finish at Roediger's Abattoir at Northam. Things went well until they got to Roediger's Abattoir about 6.30 pm and abattoir staff had knocked off. I was surprised with this mishap because Mr Ray Roediger was an active member of the Trade Cattle Committee and his abattoir staff had not cut down the carcasses. As it happened one of the Judges Mr Glenn Smith from AUS-MEAT had been a butcher prior to joining the company and he was able to cut the carcasses down ready for judging. Mrs Dawn Cook and I were anxiously waiting at the Showground for them to return and had asked could some meals be saved for them. The Judges did not return to the Showground till about 9.30 pm and explained the lateness and what had happened. For a first up attempt at solving the problem they considered things had gone very well and all abattoirs were happy to have taken part. Mrs Dawn Cook and I now had to collate the results and provide a printout for the trade cattle presentation for 10.00 am Friday morning in the Mezzanine Room Number 2 Councillors in the Silver Jubilee Pavilion which was an area inside the door up the stairs on the left of the entrance which had an area of approximately 9.1 metres x 6 metres (30 feet x 20 feet) down to the bar. This location area was used for many presentation ceremonies by different Sections throughout the PRS. This area was also a nice quiet place if you wanted to take your wife/ partner or friends for a cup of tea. This program was the only method by which the Trade Cattle Competition could continue to operate. Now and again, we had a little bit of excitement when a steer was able to escape not only from pens but out of the Showground through Gate 5 and finish up down in Claremont. Eventually I believe Cr Ivan Solomon was able to catch the steer with the help of several others and hold it down until they were able to get a horse float there to return it to the Showground. In 2014 a steer escaped from the cattle crush in the Cattle Lanes and jumped through the open window of one of the Steward's small cars and absolutely wrecked it. I believe the RAS insurance covered the mishap. These are fairly rare occasions, but they can happen. I never cease to be amazed at how successful I found it to ring strangers in business and achieve these sorts of responses and support. I was convinced that the word Royal put some legitimacy to my requests over the years.

Needless to say, I was fairly tired by Saturday morning and never went to the Showground until mid-morning. I can well remember several Councillors asking me where I had been for, they had not seen me for a few days, and they were very surprised when I told them what I had been doing as they had no idea of what was involved with these Sections.

As the commercial side of the pigs was diminished to a large extent it became only an exhibition of pigs and by now there were spare pens available in the Pig Pavilion which meant some alterations were made to accommodate other breeds of livestock. It seemed that if someone wanted to exhibit at the show send them down to the Pig Pavilion was the order of the day for, I now had not only rabbits but alpacas, emus, deer, ostrich and finally some led steers in the bottom end of the pavilion. I asked for an assistant and Cr Trevor Barwick was appointed to look after rabbits, he looked after the judging and penning and Trophy Presentation only.

Previously I had mentioned that when I worked with Cr Lew Oakes the CIC of Youth Displays and I had looked after the performances on the stage on the west side of the Commonwealth Bank building over the road from the entrance to the RAS offices. Cr Bruce Campbell and his Planning Committee had proposed that this be turned into a precinct that would allow vehicles to park either side of some trees through the middle of this area which would provide parking for the office. The RAS Council decided that this was to be known as the Carter Precinct in recognition of the services of President Peter Carter (1984 to 1986). This certainly is more convenient for the public wishing to go to the RAS offices and the loss of a stage was to be overcome with the establishment of the Coca-Cola stage west of here at the corner of Hooley Avenue and Viveash Avenue and has stage performances or bands performing throughout the PRS. Having mentioned the Carter name it is interesting to note that President Peter Carter's son Cr Paul Lewin Carter became President for a 3-year term (2017 to 2020) having been on RAS Council since 1994. Cr Paul Lewin Carter's first role as a Councillor was to take over the Honey Section from me in 1996.

One RAS Council meeting I was asked to comment on what was now going on in the Pig Pavilion and Cr Trevor Barwick referred to the Pig Pavilion as Cr Kevin Cahill's "Cosy Corner" and commented that he thought it was about as full as you could get it. I agreed but said we were one fairly happy family and certainly drew a large crowd of visitors through the building over the PRS week. On the plus side the Alpaca Exhibitors invited Rewa Cahill and I to be their guests at their Annual get-Together in a top hotel in the city during the Show week which we thoroughly enjoyed.

My Show week fortnight now consisted of coming to Perth on the Sunday before Show week, fronting for the Apiculture Section Monday morning and be ready for judging by 1.00 pm, to process the results and

then have a Trophy Presentation later in the week in the Number 2 Councillor's lounge. Tuesday it was a case of setting up for the Farm Skills and the frustrations that went with this Section. Trade cattle came late Thursday and Friday morning ready for weighing that afternoon and judging Saturday morning.

In 1988 a Mr Bruce Campbell became a Councillor. Little did anyone envisage the impact that this appointment was to have on the Future development of the Show grounds for the next 30 years. A building and Planning Committee was set up in conjunction with the C E O Bruce Wynn, including Cr's Robert Hayes Thompson, Margret Bannister, Malcolm Seymour, Jim Webster. Bruce was appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee He was ably assisted by his architect Mr Gordon White who became a Councillor in 2002 but unfortunately passed away in 2004. Cr Bruce Campbell owned a very large building company, and the RAS was to benefit substantially from this over the next few years. The first task the Planning Committee came up with was to extend the southern end of the Robinson Pavilion in 1988 which would allow more room for the sheep and also since the Robinson Pavilion was attached to the Silver Jubilee Pavilion it provided a big area of space available for commercial exhibitions. In years to come it ultimately became known as the RAS Commercial Exhibition Centre.

Following the success of the Robinson Pavilion extension, this set up a pattern as to what could be achieved with good research and planning between each PRS. As time went by, we were to see a huge building program change the face of the Showground for years to come. The Planning Committee members had been listening to Counsellors who had been to Eastern State Royal Shows and had bought back ideas of what happened over there particularly in reference to train facilities for entrance to their Showground. RAS Council was aware that it needed to speak to the government about the possibility of a train station within the Showground. Favourable conversations had been taking place and ultimately the Council decided because the finance could be found to contribute to the vicinity of \$900,000.00 towards this project coming to fruition. The Honourable Colin Barnett was the Premier of the day, and he encouraged his Ministers to work with Cr Bruce Campbell and the Planning Committee to bring this to fruition. Finally, pre show on the 28 September 1995 the Minister for Transport Mr Eric Charlton MLC unveiled a Plaque opening the railway station with a Plaza adjacent to this that had the Wesfarmers gate entrances unveiled also on 29 September 1995 by the Premier the Honourable Colin Barnett which gave access directly into the ground. The public have well and truly supported this venture because the Claremont Council appears to do everything possible to reduce parking within the near vicinity to the

Showground. More and more people park elsewhere and hop on the train with a ticket that allows entrance to the ground and now almost a quarter of a 1 million people use this facility. As far as I am concerned, I think it was a great investment to encourage the use of the Showground. Unfortunately, this station does not operate 7 days a week but for functions at the Showground it is brought into use for the public use.

The Minutes of the 21 April 1999 RAS Council Meeting Cr Robert Philip Hawes commented that Life Member Cr Colin Pearse who had served 52 years on Council (1946 to 1997), requested that Honour Boards for recognition of current Councillors be established within the RAS and was seconded by Cr William John (Bill) Payne that this be established. Cr Colin Pearse as a project set about listing all Councillors who had served on Council since RAS moved to the Claremont Showground in 1905 and over the next period by research and using the Battye Library, he almost completed the list.

Unfortunately, Cr Colin Pearse fell sick in 2003 and I went to see him in the hospital, and he asked me if I would take over and complete his work and bring the Honour Boards to fruition. Naturally I said yes and advised the RAS Council what had happened. To assist with the cost ,all current Councillors contributed \$50.00 towards this, and I was asked to collect the \$1,400.00 which I did over the next few months. Rewa Cahill and I spent several visits to the Battye Library to complete this research as it was necessary to go back thru the Council Minutes to verify when some Councillors had been elected. Ultimately, we were satisfied that we had everything right with 230 Councillors names listed up till 2006. This list was taken to Mr Chas Sheridan from Sheridan's Badges and Engraving who did most of the RAS engraving work.

date of appointment. This was easily fixed for I showed the printed wording from the Battye Library and no more was discussed about it. I asked the RAS President would he write a letter of thanks to Mr John Wood for his work for it made things a lot easier for me. I had moved at RAS Council that a plaque be placed on the Lectern that Mr John Woods had made. but this was never acted on and several years later it disappeared in Presidents Robert Wilson's term.

Council members had been expressing their wish to do away with the Speedway for quite some time so as the Showground could be redeveloped. The Planning Committee came up with a bold plan for a reconstruction of the Showground including shortening the main arena by 33 metres (108 feet) and spending \$1.8 million for redevelopment which would mean Perth would lose its recognition as having the longest Speedway circuit in Australia and with the Speedway going off the Showground this did not really matter. At first, I was against this and said so because I believe the RAS Council in conjunction with the Speedway should have approached the government for financial assistance and help to redevelop the main arena so Speedway could continue. This was not very well received by other RAS Councillors however I felt it was an opportunity missed partly because the Speedway rent to the RAS Council was in the vicinity of \$400,000.00 and virtually covered the cost of the RAS staff employed. This big loss to the budget would mean a big increase in ground rents to cover this amount. I was game enough to put my hand up and vote against it, however it was passed unanimously except for me, and the Speedway was to leave the Showground. It meant the Speedway management needed to go to the government for assistance in providing a new Speedway facility so is it could continue operating for the Speedway fans of WA. Eventually the Naval Base site was chosen however the new site could not be developed by 1999 so the government offered to pay the RAS a fee for the Speedway to operate in 1999 and finally left the ground in 2000. As part of the new development the trotting track around the edge of the main arena was done away with and a horse warm up area was added. Also, a props area to allow for much better servicing of the Showground. This was the biggest project that Cr Bruce Campbell and his Planning Committee had undertaken but credit to all concerned while it was not finished for the 2000 PRS it had progressed to a stage where the PRS could operate and allow the job to be completed later. The enlargement of the grassed area on the north east end of the main arena has been a bonus for PRS patrons to have an area for picnics and entertain their families. The paved walkways, entrance ways and the large open area in front of the main grandstand

has really enhanced the overall appearance of things along with the limestone block seating areas around the main arena

Early in 2003 the speedway management asked the RAS if they could place a Plaque on the ground to be unveiled by Chum Taylor to commemorate the 17 fatalities over the 73 years of the Speedway being located at the Claremont Showground.



Speedway Plaque (1927 to 2000)

RAS Council agreed wholeheartedly that this magnificent project be called the 'Bruce Campbell arena' in recognition of the time planning and tremendous contribution that Cr Bruce Campbell had given to bring this to fruition and a plaque was unveiled to recognise this work, but little did anyone know or realise that this was to be Cr Bruce Campbell's last work as later in the year he suddenly took ill and passed away in early 2003. The RAS Council along with his family had an unveiling and naming ceremony on the edge of the main arena on 3 August 2003. His passing was a big loss to Council and as, yet no one has come forward to replace him with the enthusiasm and dedication to keep such major projects going. The RAS Council and the Show patrons can only be pleased with the transformation that has taken place. No longer is the

ground criticised as being a place of dilapidated old buildings and generally speaking not welcoming to the Show patrons.

With the Speedway gone the Millers Timber building on Hardey Avenue which they had had been using as offices until 1989 when it became Speedway House. It was their office until they left the Showground in 2000. The RAS Council decided to spend a considerable amount of money and refurbish the building back towards its former glory. President Lou Giglia had set up the 'Agricultural Hall of Fame' and this building was an obvious choice to house this project. The purpose of the Hall of Fame was to recognise those people who had made a significant contribution to the development and progress of agriculture throughout the State since its establishment. The format was for the names of these people to be submitted by the public to the RAS Hall of Fame Committee who would select one or two people each year. However, the first couple of years it had been decided to recognise three people for the first few for years to catch up the backlog of people many of whom were deceased. It was felt that the record should commence from the very early years up until the current time. Once a person was nominated, they would be advised and asked to contribute towards an oil painting that was to be done by an artist selected by the RAS to be hung in this building for posterity. Early each year a ceremony was to be held and the inductee's family or relatives plus members of the public would be invited to this ceremony. To date there has been in excess of 50 odd people recognised.

There was a Counsellor Mr David Buttfeld who had joined Council in 1978 and served as a Counsellor until 1986 when he applied for and was appointed RAS Treasurer till 1996 and then resigned as Treasurer after a very successful period and reverted back to being a Counsellor again. Cr David Buttfeld had made a tremendous contribution to the running and affairs of the RAS and worked in the main arena as his wife Mrs Jan Buttfeld and daughters had an Arab Horse Stud. However, he had the misfortune to find out that he had a virulent case of cancer and died in early 2001. This was a shock to everyone as he was a very popular man and had contributed so much over his years with the RAS. In recognition of this fact RAS Council decided to name the Agricultural Hall of Fame building David Buttfeld House and on 1 September 2001 President Lou Giglia unveiled a park to commemorate his contribution to the RAS. Cr Michael Jones and I shared a strong friendship with Cr David Buttfeld, in fact David was on the Y.A.L. Eastern States trip to Sydney in 1949 with Michael and I, as was seen in a photograph I produced.

A History Committee with Cr John Wilding as Chairperson was set up in 1997 with the Committee comprising Councillors, Robert Pearce, John Hanley, John O'Meehan, Don Robertson, C.E.O. Des Mitting and Cheryl McMillan as secretary to look into recording more of what had gone on with various Councillors during their term as CIC of the various Section. A lady Mrs Maxine Laurie from the Historical Society had been engaged to tape record interviews with Councillors and in 1999 I was asked to talk to her on several occasions to dictate my involvement in Agricultural Societies. Altogether we made four tapes and covered much the same ground as I have done here from 1950 onwards. Cr Michael Jones and Past President Tom Wilding were to follow me, and no doubt others would contribute.

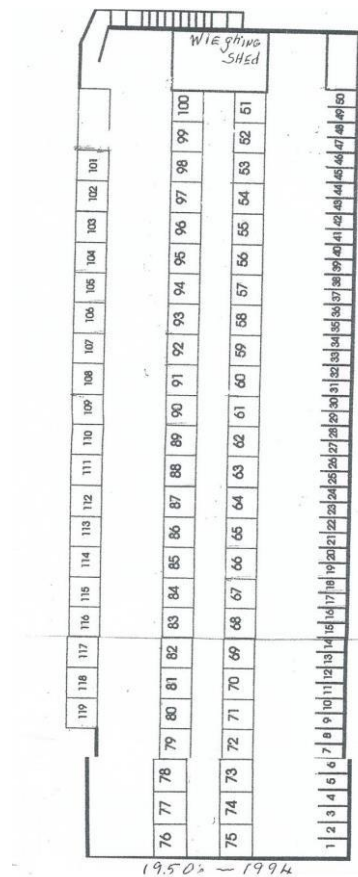
The committee had commissioned Professor Michael White from the University History department to research the project. Professor White had spent some time researching the project and had pretty well completed from 1831 to 1890 and commented about the lack of information from Agricultural societies. He stated that up until 1890 the R A S had played a huge part in the development of the colony, however no minutes exist that record when the change in name from the W A Ag Society to the RAS can be found. He also noted there was no history of the wine industry and wondered if the Ras might be interested in forming a relationship with this growing industry.

The meeting on the 15th of December 1999 acknowledged the death of Professor White. There was general discussion regarding the ownership of the completed works. A Dr Glenn McLaren had offered his services to complete the history, however as Dr Gil McDonald had been working on the project with Professor White he was chosen to complete the project.

In 2004 the committee's work bore fruition when "Adversity & Achievements" the past foundation years of the Society was published. Councillor John O'Meehan was adamant that this title was befitting of the activities of the Society so far in its history. .

It had been decided by the RAS Council in 1997 that the main entrance in Graylands Road should be updated and who better to do this than was Cr Bruce Campbell and his Planning Committee. A sponsor was found and in due course an opening ceremony was held in September 1997 with the Number 1 entrance to the Showground being known as the Elders Gate with turnstiles and office for gate staff and also it had several drop off points for taxis.

In 1997 there had been discussions regarding replacing the old trade cattle pens which had been there since 1950, with portable pens which could be removed each year and allow for the extra space gained to be used during the PRS period for controlled parking.



Trade Cattle Penning 1950 to 1994 constructed of 2 inch water pipe cemented into the ground.

The size of the portable yards could be determined by the number of entries and penning adjusted accordingly to allow vehicle parking. In 1997 Cr Michael Jones was CIC of the Trade Cattle Section as I had relinquished the position to take over the District Displays and he and I were given the job of finding suitable portable penning. We made some enquiries and finally settled on a quote from Whitnall's a manufacturer at Gidgegannup. The RAS Council supported our recommendation of a supplier and consequently the old cattle pens were tendered for and sold or dismantled and taken away clearing the site. This was now prepared

and bituminised ready for the new pens to be erected south from the weighing shed on the northern end of this open area. The pens were delivered, and we set them up for the 1998 PRS. The new set up allowed more room for vehicle parking and generally speaking worked quite well making it easier to operate all around. Storage of the pens were seen as a problem and also, we needed an office for the operation and somewhere to store fodder during the PRS. Property Services Manager Mr Brian Higgins suggested a double garage type structure about 6 metres wide x 9 metres long (20 feet x 30 feet) with wide swinging doors on one end and a side door on the south side. This became available during the year and the pens were dismantled and stacked in there for further use. This turned out to be a big advancement as far as the overall running of the Trade Cattle Section during the PRS. The one big drawback was the proximity to the Sideshow Area, and I constantly complained about the big rides being alongside and upsetting flighty cattle. Eventually a 1.8 metre (6 foot) brick wall was erected on the East side, and this did improve things considerably. However, I could never see why we could not demand the sideshow people use the area for stalls et cetera and keep the big noisy rides away. It has never happened.



Portable Trade Cattle yards

In 1994/ 95 it had been decided to build a new building on the eastern side of the Showground south of Gate 8. It was to be built away from the fence to allow vehicle access to the building for unloading, etc. This was a new style building with ventilation about 2.4 metres (8 feet) up the walls by way of a Louvre setup plus exhaust fans. It was to become a building for pigs and exhibition of alpacas, fish, rabbits, emus, camels, and it would seem whatever else wanted to be exhibited at the PRS. This of course was to replace (Cr Kevin Cahill's "Cosy Corner") at the Pig Pavilion which was to be demolished. It ultimately would have an office and toilet facilities which were needed in that area of the Showground. I became CIC of this building and worked with RAS Administration Manager Bruce Wallis (a Lieutenant Colonel and a retired Vietnam S A S officer) who had recently joined the Ras in this new roll of Administration Officer. I found him a pleasure to work with, for I was of the opinion that Bruce through his Military background was attempting to put the "Royal" back into Ras functions in the way things were set up and carried out ,particularly at presentations by the President of the Day, who must have been pleased at this approach. We worked together on fitting out this building. I asked Mr Paul Jones of Cyclone who had now bought out ARC Engineering the manufacturers of arc mesh to come to a meeting with RAS Administration manager Mr Bruce Wallis and myself and see if we could design and manufacture suitable pens for the pig exhibition and for the alpacas. Mr Paul Jones was enthusiastic and suggested the design of the pens we have today and had them manufactured accordingly. To set up for pigs was a challenge as we needed to control the damaging of the floor by urine and faeces. I came up with the idea of putting down heavy black plastic with a layer of sand on top of this over which we would lay shade cloth to keep the animals out of the sand and allow us to use bedding straw on top of this. This has turned out to be very satisfactory and the floor is unstained and almost as clean as the day it was erected. I contacted a friend of mine Mr Bob Maughan who was manufacturing pig huts for the open-air piggeries in the south of the State and purchased one to exhibit sows and litters in the same way as they live in the open paddocks. The Pat A Pig area with a low fence and bales of hay for the children to sit on and pick up and play with small pigs is a very popular spot. I had found a company in Welshpool that could fairly cheaply produce a Pat A Pig sticker about 5 centimetres (2 inches) in diameter that we could give to each person who patted a pig, a very popular innovation and gave us an indication of how popular the activity was. From memory about 1,400 stickers were hand out in the first year.

On 16 September 1995 a RAS Council ceremony named the building the Tom Wilding Pavilion after a former President and a member of the prominent Wilding family from 'Mokine' near Northam who have had three of their family members as RAS Presidents. Past President Thomas Henry Wilding who was Past President Thomas Duncan and John Henry Wilding's father, was President in 1909 , 1928 and 1929 and took an active part in RAS Council affairs until ill health prevented him from doing so. He had joined the Council in 1905 and was a Counsellor until 1949. He was then made an Honorary Councillor 1958. He passed away in 1954. Mr Thomas Henry Wilding (senior) was a Counsellor for over 50 years. The Annual Report of 1954 gave special mention of his death. He was the first RAS Councillor to be made an Honorary Councillor which is still recognised today by councils and is given to those counsellors who have made a significant contribution to the successful operation and function of the Sections that are allocated to them on a yearly basis, providing they have been a member of Council for 15 years. Originally this term was 20 years, however Council amended this in 1993 as Cr Theo Seymour had given 19 years of tremendous service and members felt this ruling was an impediment and Councillors sighted several previous occasions when this rule had been restricting their wishes. It was freely debated and was amended to be 15 years as this was thought to be a more practical period, bearing in mind that this nomination was to come from Councillors and voted on by Councillors for their appointment as time went by.

As I had been CIC of pigs, etc. in the old Pig Pavilion, I became CIC of the new Tom Wilding Pavilion, and I had Mr William Joseph (Bill) Scott Chief Steward and his wife Mrs Jan Scott and Mr Allen Webse and his wife Mrs Jo Webse as his offsiders as day-to-day Managers during the PRS. The Scott and Webse families have been supplying Large White and Berkshire pigs for exhibition for more years than I can remember. Mr Bill Scott's father first exhibited in 1953 and died in 1959 when Mr Bill Scott took over. He became a Councillor in 2004. Cr Don Robinson took over from me in 2001 as CIC of the Tom Wilding Pavilion.

The demolishing of the old Pig Pavilion and the redevelopment of the rather large area for trade cattle and parking, etc. meant that it was an opportunity to construct new entrance ways into the main arena from the cattle and horse lanes. This was by way of tunnels either side of the McGlew Pavilion which was erected in 1993. This Pavilion was part of a new horse complex and provided a Ring Masters office and a covered area where horses could be stalled. Ultimately it was necessary to use the rubber conveyor belt material on the floor to prevent the horses from

slipping on the concrete. The tunnels sloped down to the main arena level which gave much easier access to the main arena for Grand Parades, etc. This means whilst entry is taking place through the Western Road tunnel others can be exiting by the Eastern Road tunnel. As the tunnels pass under a roadway and walkway for the Show patrons, I was adamant and moved at Council that on the main arena side of the walkway over the tunnels, shields be provided so that no hoodlum could throw objects at any animals, etc. walking through, which would be a catastrophe if this happened.

In 1999 the Richardson Pavilion on the eastern side of the Showground immediately south of the Tom Wilding Pavilion which opened in 1930, was demolished and a new complex to be known as the John Wilding Complex was built to be used as a St John Ambulance Centre and also a childminding centre until 2000. Ironic that the two Wilding brothers should have buildings named after them in the same location.

Cr Bruce Campbell was jokingly referred to by a RAS Councillor at a Council meeting one day that he was being known more for his demolishing of buildings and not necessarily replacing them with a building but however his intention was to open the Showground up to be more convenient for the Show patrons. An example of this was the demolishing in 1995 of what was the Horticultural Pavilion located on the corner of Gull Avenue and Hardey Avenue and over the road from this was the Meat Hall where butchers operated from, and cattle pig and sheep carcasses were displayed. These areas became grassed and opened up the whole area.

Exhibition space or lack of it has always been a problem for the RAS and the matter was discussed at a Council meeting early in 1998. A proposal was put to build a new building adjacent to the end of the Robinson Pavilion. This was enthusiastically received as a result of seeing what could be done when the Robinson Pavilion extension was built. To everyone's surprise the RAS Council carried a motion to expend up to \$400,000.00 on this new building to be ready for the next PRS in 1998. I walked out of the Council meeting with Past President Jim Webster, and he said to me, Kevin I never thought that I would come to a Council meeting today and approve to spend the sum of \$400,000.00 on a new building, I guess we are doing the right thing. Never in his wildest dreams would he have thought that the building would be named after him in recognition of his term as RAS President (1987 to 1989). By joining the Webster Pavilion with the Robinson Pavilion and the Silver Jubilee Pavilion we now had a very large exhibition area to attract functions to the Showground with this extension of Cafeteria and toilets several offices and a servery area between the Jim Webster Pavilion and Robinson

Pavilion build in 2001. To achieve this building program several buildings needed to be demolished namely the Sheepmen's Bar and the MacPherson Pavilion in 1999 which ran across between Viveash Avenue and Waylen Avenue. The demolishing of the Sheepmen's Bar which being in the proximity of the sheep in the Robinson Pavilion was removing probably one of the most popular meeting places and watering holes on the Showground. The only place to come anywhere near this for popularity was the Cattlemen's Bar upstairs in the northern end of the Silver Jubilee Pavilion. By removing these buildings, it opened the Showground up for Show patrons and substantially assisted movement around the Showground. This sort of thing would happen in the future as more buildings would be demolished as part of the building program. The Webster Pavilion has some very popular exhibitions during the PRS, and it is almost impossible to move through the building.

In 1995 I chose a date that turned out to be too close to the forthcoming Royal Show to have a total left knee replacement operation. As a result I was still on crutches during show week. It turned out walking from the trade cattle yards to the main office was beyond me and I only did it once before I went to see Director Bruce Wynn for help. As a result he provided a vehicle pass that allowed me to get in my Ute which was parked behind the pig pavilion and go out gate 5 and travel via Graylands Rd back to gate one to get into the main office. It was necessary for me to accompany the judges stewards and my staff to the screened off section in the Wattle Room where an area had been screened off and was set up for meals for the week that were provided for show workers each day. To walk there on crutches daily was beyond me. Kerry Muir Secretary of the S. M. B.A. suggested that I ask the Boss of Yamaha for a loan of a Golf buggy to use on the ground, but I was a bit hesitant. She reached for her phone and said if you won't I certainly will, so I spoke to Geof Eldrid who said no trouble you will have one tomorrow. I was on my way to the cattle lanes when the steering arm on the buggy broke and I finished in a stall in Waylin Avenue, no-one was hurt ! , just pride. When I rang Geoff and told him ,he was surprised as he thought there were no buggies that had not been modified.

That is how Golf Buggies came to the showground. I used to ring and have one delivered each year after that. When the Yamaha sponsorship was withdrawn, I approached Golf Cars WA. It cost two tickets each year until Asset Services took over obtaining a large number of Buggies, it seemed for far too many sections got on the band wagon. Ultimately this led to some minor upsets and as a result, use of buggies was forbidden across the Show. For the sheep section being the furthest working Office from the main office it makes things very difficult as considerable time is lost walking across and becomes pretty tiring fighting the crowds at times. This needs reconsidering.

In December 1996 RAS President John Francis O'Meehan had asked me if I would take on CIC of District Displays in 1997 in the Centenary Pavilion. I accepted this as I had a soft spot for the District Displays through the Eastern Group and had been working there off and on since 1970. In 1997 Cr Greg Brockway was to leave the main arena and take on the Sheep Section from me. Early, in 1997 I discussed with Rewa and contacts she had from her years of working with the Fantasy of Flowers Committee which was part of West Australia Week for many years. It was suggested that we introduce a Floriculture Committee and have a display at the next PRS. I asked Rewa to suggest which ladies from The Fantasy of Flowers Committee would she suggest I approach to form a Floriculture Committee. Those invited included Mrs Colleen Maley, Mrs Colleen Miles Cadman, Mrs Carole Kurth and they agreed to join the Committee along with Cr Margaret Bannister, Mrs Judy Hebiton and Cr Anne Rackham. A Committee was formed, and a Schedule was produced for the 1997 Competition that was to encourage students of flora at TAFE and other tertiary institutions to enter several Classes. The business firm of Smithers Oasis Australia based in Melbourne was approached to provide a Trophy for the Best Display. Every year since its inception a Mr Alan Randall Smith from Oasis in Melbourne has come to the PRS to judge and present their trophy. Mr Alan Randall Smith stated that based on Perth schedule a National Competition has been set up at other Royal Agricultural Shows across Australia with their sponsorship. It was a pity that when a new Councillor was appointed, and the Committee changed this sponsorship was lost after almost 20 years. I was disappointed to hear this as I had rung Oasis to obtain this sponsorship all those years ago. I informed the RAS Council what we had achieved, and they wished the Committee all the best for the next PRS. We then had to find equipment to stage the display. I was aware of all of the materials of the Kimberley District Display that had been stored in the Gate 11 office and spoke to Mr Garry Shirley Property Service Manager to see if I could use this material. He advised to check with the Kimberly group. I did this and they said yes by all means or throw it away. I borrowed some tools from the Eastern Districts Display stand and set about making bases about 1 metre (3.2 feet) square for the floral displays about 12 of them and painting them black. We planned the display for the centre position of the Pavilion. The floral display was very successful for the first attempt. The Committee in conjunction with the Murdoch TAFE students were encouraged to compete. They then had a Competition to compete in annually for prize money. To make it easier for all workers in the Centenary Pavilion who were queuing at the 2 taps for water throughout the day I conceived the idea of setting each tap up with a ball valve as used on sheep water

troughs with the water going into the green rubbish bins that had the lids folded over and would always be filled with water. This meant a person only had to walk up with a bucket and dip it in. This turned out to be a wonderful idea as it not only saved considerable time, but there was also practically no spillage on the floor hence less chance of someone slipping over. After each PRS Property Services collects the fittings and stores them until the next PRS.

Just before Xmas 1997 President John O'Meehan rang, he apologised but stated that he wanted to move me from the District Displays and asked would I take on the CIC of the Sheep Section in 1998. He said he wanted my decision as soon as possible as he would need to allocate the 5 or 6 Committees that I had to other Councillors. He would like the answer in 2 weeks' time. I gave it a lot of thought and discussed it with Rewa and consequently I rang back to say yes, I would do it. It appeared there was some disharmony within the Sheep Committee, and he would like me to try to resolve the problems. I felt the Sheep Committee would be a real challenge as I had a soft spot for my sheep on the farm and now the challenge was to look after the largest animal Section of the PRS outside of horses.

Early in 1996 a building called Corbett House was occupied as a fulltime Police Station. The RAS Council saw the provision of this facility as one way of ensuring a very good service by the Police for the PRS. There had been talk of cutbacks and hourly charge rates, but this move was seen as a good opportunity to cement good relations between the RAS and the Police, however service from here was cut back due to a reduction in the Police budget and I believe now is part-time until the PRS when a full-time approach is taken

At my first Sheep Committee meeting in 1998 I found I knew many of the Committee members from JF days and quickly learned of the problems they were having. I said to give me time to settle in and I would do my best to improve things for them to make the PRS show more enjoyable. Those present at my first meeting in March 1998 were Mr Harold Manton, Mr Dick Biggin, Mr Robert Uphill. Cr Mr Donald Kay (Don) Forrest, Mr Grant Bingham A S B B S, Mr Alan Boyle, Cr Peter John Dempster, Mr Brian Barnett (S M B A), RAS Administration Manager Bruce Wallis, Mr Nick Burges, Mr Arthur Pederick (Australian Corriedale Assoc), Mr Harry Godwin, Mr Ken Manton (A S B B S), Mr Bruce Buswell, Mr Ron Wright, Mr Tim Marshall (Department of Agriculture), Cr Donald Euan (Don) Robertson, President John O'Meehan and Section Secretary Miss Kerry Muir. In future years others to be appointed were

Mr Laurie Fairclough, Mr Brian Westlake, Mr Jim Glover, Mr Roy Addis Mr Michael O'Neill which gave fairly good representation across the different sheep breeds. We ultimately invited a few more people onto the Committee as I felt it was necessary to have as many of the exhibiting sheep breeds represented if possible. This also meant that more people would know and understand what The Committee was endeavouring to do. Some of the other matters raised at this meeting included, had the flock register arrived for the South African breeds ?. We were advised we would have it later in the year. We received a letter from P&O Nedlloyd advising that they had withdrawn their sponsorship for the Merino Exhibitor of the Year Competition. The RAS Marketing Manager Mr Glenn Weiland was seeking new sponsorship. There was a letter from the S M B A stating that they did not approve of the proposed changes to the Sheep Section and that we should maintain the status quo and requested changes in the Schedule to be implemented. It was moved that the majority of Competitors wish to retain the present Schedule with fine tuning changes as suggested. At the April meeting the new Property Services Manager Mr Brian Higgins was introduced, who stated that he would do what ever was required to achieve changes as required, providing he was given sufficient notice. Nick Burgess from Meckering stated that the Meckering Agricultural Society had folded up and there was a set of sheep yards still there that may be suitable. I offered to call in and inspect the sheep pens next time I came back down to Perth for a Sheep Committee meeting and report. Ultimately, I reported that they were unsuitable as they were of half inch pipe and wire construction, not at all suitable. Mr Brian Higgins stated that new lockers had been purchased which were larger 1.8 metres (6 feet) in height by 1 metre (3.3 feet) deep and available for this year's PRS. The old lockers were 0.7 metre (2.2 feet) wide by 1.2 metres (7.2 feet) deep. This was good news. It was asked if the space under the stands could be used for storage. Mr Brian Higgins replied that he did not think that Work Safe would approve of this because of the danger of fire. The South African breeds Register had now been received. The WA White Suffolk breeders of Australia Committee had requested to exhibit at the forthcoming PRS. It was moved and carried that White Suffolk Exhibitors be allowed to show on receipt of their accreditation. It was agreed that the Mission Statement for the Sheep Committee be 'To Foster Excellence in sheep breeding and production in WA'. With sponsorship, Mr Dick Biggin raised the issue of selling wall space and airspace and the better promotion of sponsors. Mr Bruce Wallis emphasised that this Sheep Committee through Cr Kevin Cahill, can promote sponsors the best way possible with banners, bunting, etc. within the Robinson Pavilion and that it is up to this Committee's

members to become involved in ensuring that sponsors are receiving the most advantage for their sponsorship contribution.

I have a 1997 Sheep Section Report from the Sheep Section Secretary Miss Kerry Muir that gives some idea of the problems the Sheep Committee was experiencing. Miss Kerry Muir presented this from her perspective, the high numbers of exhibits at the PRS this year indicated that serious consideration needs to be placed on the possible changes and restructuring of the Show week for future years, so that the best results for all Exhibitors and the Show patrons can be achieved. In particular sponsorship to be as productive and effective as possible. This Report covers more areas than a Secretarial Show Report would normally cover, but in consideration of my involvement in the Sheep Show in 1997 this coverage is essential.

Committee

The extra duties and political discussions which were undertaken by myself this year indicated that it is imperative that the Sheep Committee members need to be able to commit more time from the close of entries through to the end of Show week. The couple of hours here and there do not account for the preparatory work which needs to be done within the Sheep Pavilion. In future years Sheep Committee members and Stewards should be requested to be available on 1 or 2 days prior to the Show week commencement and are able to assist with tasks such as sorting of penning cards, exhibit numbering and placing cards on the pens for the respective Breed Sections so that they are aware of the procedure and are able to attend to any unforeseen obstacles. In discussion with Mr Grant Bingham, it was suggested that a busy bee be conducted on the Tuesday and Wednesday before Show week for each Breed Section to be involved in set up and arranging. As much as I appreciate the RAS perspective of inviting individuals onto the Sheep Committee to work for the betterment of the PRS it is quite obvious that very few can mentally transfer from one hat, being their Breed Society interests and the other being the Sheep Committee and inevitably the PRS. Through discussion between CIC, myself, and other interested parties the following recommendation is made:

Instead of continuing to fight the link between Breed Societies and the Sheep Committee, that the RAS acknowledge that control of each Breed Section is the responsibility of the Breed Societies. Each Breed Section of the Sheep Show would then be required to submit its changes to the Sheep Committee and a representative that is nominated by the Breed

Society and approved by the RAS President. This currently works effectively for the Corriedale and Merino Sections who both easily communicated with me on changes required in their Sections and basically control these Sections effectively, including the handling of disputes. Both Mr Robert Uphill and Mr Dick Biggin had discussions with me prior to the PRS and therefore comfortably dealt with their respective Sections.

The Sheep Committee would require a representative from the Australian Society of Breeders of British sheep, the Australian Poll Dorset Association, the Stud Merino Breeders Association of WA, Corriedale Association, the Australian Suffolk Association, West Corp International, the Prime Lamb Section and the Melanian Sheep Breeders Association. Whether this representative should be the current President of the Society or Association and/ or the Chief Steward for that particular Section is optional. Two proxies should be nominated early in the year and be approved by the RAS President to stand when the delegate is not available. Issues such as sponsorship should all still be referred to the RAS for coverage, but the Breed Sections should be run by their Chief Steward who should directly approach a CIC for any extra requirements prior to or during the PRS. As much as I appreciate that Councillors should have activity in various Sections, it has been suggested that of the 7 Sheep Committee members there should be 2 Councillors in attendance and a CIC therefore totalling 10 persons on the Committee. I personally believe that some Councillors have involvement in too many Sections during the PRS and are unable to contribute effectively to them all.

Schedule

As this was my second year as CIC and my understanding of the process of the PRS was far clearer, it became quite obvious that there is a significant requirement for each Section including general information to be reviewed and wording to be conformed within all Sections. I do have a concern that memos instructing specific changes prior to the revision of the Schedule had not been made and time was wasted going back over all correspondence making adjustments when the changes should have already been made on the database.

The use of the British Breeds photo on the front cover of the Schedule was highly appreciated by that section.

Shed design

It is obvious that enormous logistical problems with the shed design occurred this year owing to the high number of exhibits. I personally wish to thank Mr Brian Higgins and Mr Bruce Wallis for assisting me to make a scale design of the Robinson Pavilion. I believe there was no Pavilion plan prior to this for the Secretary to use.

I must encourage the RAS to consider the options for restructure of the Sheep Show as put together by Mr Bevan Taylor and myself especially if numbers continue along similar lines to 1997. I have been given no indication that there were any dramatic problems and would therefore assume that Exhibitors will be happy to return again in similar numbers in 1998. Our recommendations also take into consideration that many comments were made by Show patrons that there were no sheep to view if you attended the PRS at the end of the week.

The laneway still caused significant problems the placement of disposable bins which had to increase in number and other miscellaneous annoying ,yet necessary materials caused problems with arrival and dispatch of exhibits. We appreciate that with security in mind we were requested not to place certain items near the fence. I must confess that in observing the methods of non-paying visitors to the Showground there were far more ingenious methods than using disposable bins next to the fence to gain entry. They simply climbed under fences on the laneway which they had dislodged from the ground or used vehicle protection stumps vaulting over the brick fence on the southern end of the Robinson Pavilion. It has been suggested that consideration be made towards reclaiming all or part of the garden bed to give more room especially should exhibit numbers continue in future years as in 1997.

I do extend my thanks to Mr Kevin Ball from at Wagin Woolorama for the use of the Wagin Agricultural Society pens and feed buckets as much as they were not entirely appropriate, they provided a means to an end, and I am aware of no drastic consequences evolving. Exhibitors who were placed in these pens were not necessarily pleased but were understanding of the circumstances and I thank them for their tolerance.

Staffing

I want to express thanks to all the RAS shed staff and in particular the work that Mr Ron Joyce coordinated before, during and after the PRS.

Mr Ron Joyce shows extensive initiative, versatility and incredible mental control under circumstances that would test the best of us. My only concern is that Mr Ron Joyce has a lack of ability to organise and best utilise the staff that he had available and there were occasions where he was overworked yet other members of the shed staff appear to be wasting time. (From my enquires it was Ron's first year in the job and he continued on to work for me as CIC for another 6 years. We had an excellent working relationship and he helped with many of the improvements that we built into the new Jim Horwood Pavilion.

Considerable thanks go to Mr Bevan Taylor as RAS Chief Shed Supervisor who was essential in assisting me to complete the necessary preparatory tasks prior to the PRS and for the obvious good rapport and extra initiative shown between himself and Mr Ron Joyce which provided a smooth running and versatile Robinson Pavilion. I would suggest that in future each member of the RAS staff is given a schedule of duties and responsibilities so that they are aware of what needs to take place and where help would be required.

My only serious comment on RAS shed staff is my recommendation that a member of the shed staff with whom Mr Brian Higgins, Mr Bevan Taylor, Mr Ron Joyce, and myself are familiar with is not re-employed in the future.

Summarising the attachment formulation to this Report is an outline of the proposed Schedule for the Sheep Show in 1998, culminating from an extensive think tank between Mr Bevan Taylor and myself. Discussions have been held with the Western Australian Meat Marketing Corporation, Elders and I have discussed the possibilities with Mr Grant Bingham as to the possible changes to the format so that there will be stronger publicity for future sponsors, more relaxed conditions for Exhibitors and animals and more interesting entertainment and receptive knowledge of the general public. In closing I wish to pass special thanks to the following

- Mr Alan Boyle, for volunteering to be a Committee representative for Poll Dorset in the British Breed Sections and for the very helpful part that he played from my prospective.
- Mr Brian Schnieder for collecting and analysing the results from the Prime Lamb Section.
- Mr Harry Godwin for his contribution to Pre-Show requirements. - Mr Bruce Wallis for the very much needed moral support.

Signed Kerry Muir

Sheep Section Secretary

Miss Kerry Muir's proposed Schedule for the 1998 Sheep Show were cramped Exhibitor space wasted sponsor promotion, extreme shortage of judging area and general public disappointment were among various aspects that induced our suggestion for a proposed format for the Sheep Shows of the future. It is irrelevant whether the number of exhibits continue as in 1997 as an obvious lack of spectacle for the general viewing public who have come to the Robinson Pavilion to see sheep in the flesh. That after Wednesday night there is nothing to see, whereas during the first part it is chaos.

The sponsors of the Sheep Show deserved a far better set up for their promotional material and their sponsorship dollars by using judging ring coverage, walls, and airspace to its fullest advantage where under the cramped conditions this year they have had good reason to be disheartened.

The meat sheep industry and the wool sheep industry deserve the opportunity to promote their Breeds as clearly and openly as possible. It was felt that both sides of the industry are ignoring a fantastic opportunity to market themselves to the general public by ensuring that each patron who passes through the Robinson Pavilion goes out with a little more knowledge about sheep than when they first entered the Pavilion.

The following timetable is open for discussion and as many Exhibitors have passed the idea around for several years, it is time that some frank and open discussion was commenced. Previous week to Thursday Perth sale (Merino) sheep come in.

Friday

1. All Merino sheep to be penned by 6.00 pm.
2. Inspection day - Perth Merino sheep sale.
3. Merino Prime Lamb to be penned by 3.00 pm.
4. Judging on the Hoof commences at 4.00 pm.
5. Merino Prime Lamb to be transferred to Linley Valley at 6.00 pm.
6. Inspection Day for Perth sheep sale.

Comment on the big disadvantage of this program is Prime Lamb entries will not be seen by the general public as it is Pre-Show.

Saturday

1. Inspection of merino exhibits from 8.00 am.
2. Perth sheep sale commences at 10.30 am.
3. Judging the Merino Section commences at 12.00 noon.

Un-housed/ Un-rugged and Autumn Shorn (excluding groups).

4. Shearing commences of sale sheep to be shorn by contractors as from conclusion of the sale.
5. Mr Ron Niven to commence demonstration shearing and Stud sheep shearing as soon as Autumn shorn sheep become available
6. Goats - if Exhibitors wish can be penned by 6.00 pm Saturday or before 9.00 am Sunday.

Sunday

1. Merino judging of full wool sheep and Autumn shorn groups commencing at 8.30 am.
2. Goat judging commences at 9.30 am.
3. Merino presentation at 5.00 pm.
4. Mr Ron Niven demonstrating all day by using sheep trucked in or stud sheep if available.
5. Merino lamb winning carcasses to be returned in the morning for display. The remainder of carcasses to be transferred to Spearwood.

Monday

1. Shearing of stud sheep continues.
2. Junior judging, wool sheep, suitable time to be set for this.
3. Goats to exit the Pavilion by 4.00 pm.
4. Southern end of shed to be reset for incoming Breeds after goats have departed.
5. Merinos able to commence departure from the Pavilion from midday onwards. Tuesday

1. All Merino sheep to depart the Pavilion by 12.00 noon.
2. Poll Dorset, British Breeds, Suffolk, Corriedales, South African Breeds to commence entry at 2.00 pm.
3. Prime Lamb Exhibitors to be penned by 3.00 pm.
4. Prime Lamb Hoof Competition to commence at 4.00 pm.
5. Prime Lamb exhibits to be transferred to Linley Valley at 6.00 pm.

Wednesday

1. All Breeds to be penned by 12.00 noon.
2. Inspection time for all Breeds at 2.00 pm.

Thursday

1. Judging of all Breeds to commence at 8.00 am.
2. Presentation for Poll Dorset at 5.00 pm in the Robinson Pavilion and British Breeds in the Silver Jubilee Pavilion at 4.00 pm.
3. Once judging and presentations are completed, judging rings to be cleared for shearing stand to be set up.
4. Prime Lamb Champion and winning carcasses to be returned to the Showground. All other carcasses to be transferred to Spearwood.

Friday

1. Interbreed Competition and Junior Judging - Meat sheep to commence at 9.00 am.
2. Interbreed presentations to follow completion of judging.
3. Poll Dorset and British Breed sale to be held at 12.00 noon and departure to commence at the conclusion of the sale.
4. All sheep to be cleared from the Pavilion by 6.00 pm.

Saturday

Sheep Shearing Competition commences. This would mean there would be no Competition sheep left in the Robinson Pavilion other than a few Exhibitors who may choose to leave Saturday morning. Of course, there would be a large number of Merino sheep for the Shearing Competition but no other Breeds to be seen by Saturday Show patrons.

On 21 November 1997 Cr Hugh Wynter Warden Sheep Section CIC is to hold a Sheep Committee meeting in an endeavour to reflect on the PRS just gone by and give consideration to the future directions

Opening Address

CR Mr Hugh Warden opened the meeting and welcomed representatives from the Breed Societies who have agreed to join with the Sheep Committee for discussions regarding the Sheep Section and its future direction.

Mr John Nagel from the Australian Poll Dorset Association commented that his association was pleased with the numbers of exhibits in 1997. With reference to the proposed working paper, the Poll Dorset Association would prefer to see the shed remain under the current structure but would be happy to discuss the new proposed Split Show situation or any other recommendations to improve the current format.

Mr John Nagel also added that the overall impression of the PRS was good and that in referring to Mr Dick Biggin's comments regarding Sheep Committee member structure he felt that Mr Dick Biggin's recommendations were good.

Mr Dick Biggin representing both the stud Merino Breeders Association and the Sheep Committee stated that he felt the proposed structure of the split Sheep Show was a good idea that this was a structure that should be taken on. He felt that the Merino sale should be inclusive in the Merino judging and that the Sheep Shed should be set up properly from the start with minimal alterations during the PRS. With reference to the Sheep Committee Mr Dick Biggin felt that the RAS should take one

representative from each Breed Society as a Sub-committee to the Sheep Committee for running the Sheep Show not as a replacement structure for the current Sheep Committee. Mr Dick Biggin asked that the RAS make clear its Objectives for the Robinson Pavilion with respect to industry displays, as the general public come to see the show for entertainment and would like to see displays from the Wool and Meat Sections. The displays should be placed on the eastern side of the Robinson Pavilion therefore keeping the public on that side and avoiding any dangerous situation between children and sheep.

RAS Administration Manager Mr Bruce Wallis asked the meeting if there needs to be a change in representation from the Breeds. Mr Grant Bingham stated that the Sheep Committee should consist of representatives from each Breed with 2 Councillors and the Chairperson. He felt that the Breed Societies should be taking direct responsibility for their Sections. Mr Bruce Buswell made comments regarding the structure of the judging rings and the utilisation of space. While Mr John Nagel commented on the bad state of the sales presentation

Mr Alan Boyle commented that he felt all Sheep Committee members should be representative of the particular Sheep Breed. With respect to the new proposal the changeover time for Merino sheep to All Breeds was not long enough. In relation to the operation of the Sheep Committee meetings, that they should be left to run for as long as was required to cover all items and not placed on a restricted time. Mr Bruce Buswell suggested that a little compromise between Breeds is necessary for a smooth running of the Sheep Show.

RAS Administration Manager Mr Bruce Wallis commented on the role of the Sheep Committee members with respect to the Breed Societies and that the RAS wanted them to have objective opinions that would work for the betterment of the Sheep Show. Admin manager Mr Bruce Wallis also added that the Working Paper as proposed by Miss Kerry Muir and Mr Bevan Taylor who both played a large involvement in the 1997 Sheep Show was a suggestion not a blueprint formulated by the RAS and could see recommendations which will be put into use for a better Sheep Show. Admin Manager Mr Bruce Wallis commented on sponsorship for the Sheep Section and added that the RAS ask Breed Societies to refer responses to the RAS Marketing Manager Mr Glenn Weiland to arrange, not source and contract individually with each sponsor.

Mr Malcolm Edward commented on space available at the 1997 Sheep Show for both Exhibitors and judging rings. The overrun in time due to

the large number of exhibits put forward. Information on industry displays that are held at the Sydney Royal Show. He also added that the Perth Ram sale would be non-existent in the future and that the Sheep Committee could probably exclude it from its calculation.

Mr Peter Ralston commented that the same problems were across the board in all Sections. As a Judge, he noted that the associated problems which all judges had with viewing and inspecting exhibits. He also noted that with in relation to the structure of the Sheep Committee that the workload should be spread further during the week prior to the PRS and Show week itself. It should not be left to the few people.

The Proposed Format of the 1998 Sheep Show

Administration Manager Mr Bruce Wallis commented on the wool, and the RAS desire to create a better linkage between the animal and the product by having it in the Robinson Pavilion.

Mr Grant Bingham added comments regarding the new format, e.g., the judging ring situation would be okay. The new format would be workable, and it should be suggested that sponsorship could be more flexible by being able to use e.g., a second motorbike company for sponsorship.

Mr John Nagel added that at the last Poll Dorset Association meeting, his Association felt that they would prefer the current structure to be revised, but if suitable changes could not be made the Poll Dorset Association would be happy to look at the new proposed structure.

Cr Hugh Warden commented on the changeover and that the whole Robinson Pavilion should be set up completely from the beginning of the Sheep Show.

Mr Grant Bingham asked if sheep numbers were limited per Class, to which Cr Hugh Warden stated that exhibits were limited to 3 per Exhibitor per Class.

Mr Robert Uphill put forward a suggested alternating judging time. This suggestion and the Schedule from the Working Paper should be put up side by side for comparison and Miss Kerry Muir attended to any questions or concerns that were relevant to the Working Paper. Miss Kerry Muir said that this Schedule was not set in concrete and that it was exactly as Administration Manager Mr Bruce Wallis had stated, a suggestion and there was room for flexibility and make changes if necessary.

Concern was expressed regarding judging space when both the Poll Dorset and the British Breeds Sections were scheduled to be judged at the same time. It was made clear that the whole of the risen roof area section over the flooring would be available for judging rings as there would be no need for anything to be placed in this area too soon after Prime Lamb Judging.

Mr Tim Marshall commented that he felt that the overall Prime Lamb Section had worked well and felt the concept for 4 lambs to a pen had been successful. Dave Chipper from York commented that S B B S and the Poll Dorset section felt that it should revert back to 3 lambs per pen.

Concern was raised as to the health implications of placing sheep in pens that had been used previously by other Breeds and it was felt that unless a complete clean out took place Exhibitors would be concerned about animal health and the transfer of disease.

Motion that the RAS study the practical problems of cleaning out all pens to satisfy Exhibitors and departmental requirements and then if practical split format be redrafted and circulated to Breed Societies for endorsement. Motion carried. Responses to the proposal were required back to the Secretary by early March.

Cr Hugh Warden closed the meeting by thanking the Breed Society representatives for their attendance and contribution. He closed the meeting at 5.00 pm.

As it turns out this was the last Sheep Committee meeting that Cr Hugh Warden chaired as President John O'Meehan appointed Cr Kevin Vincent Cahill to take over the Sheep Committee in early 1998.

On 10 March 1998 Miss Kerry Muir, Registrar/ Executive Officer of S M B A wrote the following letter to RAS Administration Manager Bruce Wallis re: Merino Section.

We request that the following changes and comments be passed to the Sheep Committee for instigation during the 1998 PRS.

1. It is recommended that no changes to the structure of the PRS be made in 1998. We request that when a restructure does take place that it be noted that the Merino Section requires 4 days and that we recommend that the Perth Ram sale be held on Monday.
2. The following note is to be forwarded to all Merino Exhibitors after close of entry – that all exhibitors are expected to bring their own shears for the purpose of trimming back for regulation shearing and tagging.

3. That within the un-housed and un-rugged Section the words – strictly paddock conditions are to be included in the Schedule.
4. The following Class is to be included in the schedule in the unhoused/ un-rugged Section – Poll or Merino ewe with her lamb, any age any wool length.
5. The current Objective Measurement Classes (149 and 150) are being reviewed and complete details will be forwarded at a later date.
6. The S M B A of WA have considered RAS President John Meehan's invitation to nominate two delegates to the Sheep Committee and as Mr Dick Biggin will be continuing his participation, we hereby nominate Mr Brian Barnett to act as our nominated representative on the Sheep Committee.

The Associations Sub-committee which deals with issues surrounding the PRS, will be meeting again prior to the April Sheep Committee meeting and further information including officials for the PRS and recommendations will be clarified at that time.

Signed Kerry Muir
Sheep Section Secretary

The Robinson Pavilion had been extended and it appeared that the RAS had about 620 pens, but the Meat Sheep Breed numbers were increasing so with all the Breeds showing for the 6 days of the PRS being Friday to Thursday of Show week with only Melanian sheep being available for viewing until Saturday when the PRS closed. Penning became a problem. Also, the Sheep Committee was aware of several new Breeds who may wish to show in future. May I point out that the PRS ran from Friday thru to Saturday week in those days. We were able to borrow some pens from the Wagin Agricultural Society (Wagin Woolorama) Committee which gave us about 840 pens that was a help but obviously something more would need to be done. My first PRS in 1998 In the Robinson Pavilion opened my eyes as to something else I saw apart from the penning. The problem that the Exhibitors and the public had was the fact that the pens and consequently the alleyways were laid out down the length of the building which meant the public did not have easy access to get amongst the sheep if they entered by the side door, they would have to walk to either end of the building to get into this centre laneway and once in there they had to walk the full length to visit someone else in the next lane or see the sheep there.

Also the shearing platform was set up for shearing and tagging of animals purchased at the Merino ram sale which was held on the first

Saturday of the PRS. It was then pulled down to provide judging space during the week. Wednesday there was an All-Breeds sale that again would require shearing, so the board was required again. This had to be changed. In 1998 along with Prime Lamb we had approximately 1,002 sheep through the Robinson Pavilion.

In 1998 I put it to the Sheep Committee that I would plan the Robinson Pavilion with a central 2 ½ metres (8.2 feet) wide alleyway down the length of the Pavilion and pens then going across the shed to allow the people to come in a doorway and access straight into the centre alleyway to either walk up or down it and then into the row of pens on the opposite side. We could close the alleyway gates to allow sheep to be taken up to, a central judging area. It was scoffed at a bit at first, but I was going to do it anyway. It turned out to be very successful, though there were a few teething issues, but the general comment was that it was the biggest number of the public that had ever entered and mixed through the pens over the full length of the Pavilion. The Sheep Committee warned me of several people who would try my patience Pre Show. Traditionally one was the McLagan family who would invariably arrive late I mean several hours after the time of arrivals had closed, and leave the truck parked in the driveway much to everyone's annoyance. It happened and I asked Mr Peter McLagan to please move his truck. He said he had lost his truck keys. Time went by and I said I would get the forklift to move his truck. He was more concerned about settling his sheep in, even though he had other helpers. He eventually found his keys in his other pair of trousers in his locker.

Another person was Dr Sue Jordan a lecturer at the University of WA who bought her goats in and left the car and trailer locked in the driveway. Several calls over the PA system had been to no avail and other people were trying to manoeuvre around her car. I called again on the PA system and said I would shift the vehicle with the fork lift because of the problem it was causing. She came to me crying that she had lost her keys and had absolutely no idea where they might be. I asked her to ring the University as it was a vehicle from their car pool, and they may have a spare key. This was not the case, so we had to leave it till the next day. We manoeuvred it out of the road way to make it easier for everyone. The next day I took her up to the police station and as luck happened, they had been handed in. I am sure the only reason they were handed in was the fact that it had a very large University of WA tag on it. Dr Sue Jordan was one of the closest Exhibitors as she lived somewhere in Gidgegannup so to be late year after year in my book was no excuse. I asked her how come she was so late, and she said by the

time she knocked off work then went home and had some tea and then loaded up the goats. Time just seemed to slip by so much so that after we shifted to the Jim Horwood Pavilion in 1999 the shed staff and I were about to knock off at 8.45 pm when Dr Sue Jordan showed up. The shed staff wanted me to send her home, but I could not do that. We all hopped in and unloaded the goats but unfortunately, she had bought goat entries with little kids at foot that I did not know about and consequently it took time to fit some mesh we had cut up around the base of the pens to keep them in and of course they needed to be fed and watered. We were doing this so we could get away quicker and just to make my day I leant over the rail of the pen and my mobile phone fell out of my top pocket into the bucket of water. I was not impressed. I immediately grabbed it and took the battery out. When I got home, I got the hairdryer and warmed the battery and phone and left it overnight. Still fuming when I got up the next morning, I assembled the phone and much to my pleasure it worked. Dr Sue Jordan was a good supporter of the PRS who also showed Cashmere fleece, but her performance management wise a lot to be desired and as entries became less and less, she was asked not to show. I believe she did offer goats for exhibition in the Tom Wilding Pavilion for several years but eventually wore out her welcome there because she would drop them off, go to work and expected the shed staff to look after them for the Show week. Because in 1998 the sheep numbers were so high that year being 253 Merino and 199 Poll Dorset sheep along with the smaller Breeds doubling up in pens was the only way to get by. All together with Prime Lambs 918 entries were received. Late in 1998 Miss Kerry Muir resigned as registrar of the S M B A and as this was a shared position between the RAS and the S M B A whereby part of her work was shared and paid for by the RAS. RAS Administration Manager Mr Bruce Wallis felt it would be better to appoint a full-time RAS employed person to this position and a Mrs Wendy Cook who was a West Australian but had married and had been living in South Africa for many years became the Secretary of the Sheep Committee until 2015. The S M B A appointed Miss Trish Guest as Registrar and Executive Officer at their own expense. On 27 August 1999 the Sheep Committee inspected the work site for a proposed new Sheep and Goat Pavilion located on Private Road up in the north east corner of the Showground near the Mofflin Gate (Gate 8). The Chipper Pavilion that previously housed dogs and the Loton Pavilion had formerly housed poultry and pigeons. Both of these have now been located down to the old MacFarlane Pavilion site on Hardey Avenue. The MacFarlane Pavilion is now to be known as the John O'Meehan Pavilion. The layout of the shed was discussed in the light of sighting of the location of shearing stands and judging rings. The

Sheep Committee discussed some alternatives and plans were shown for these. As a result of the discussion the Sheep Committee felt that they would adhere to concept A as presented by the CIC. I have been having discussions with Cr Bruce Campbell of the Planning Committee about the new Pavilion and made some comments on the draft plan. I noted it was only approximately 4,000 metres square (13,123 feet square) not much bigger than the room we had in the Robinson Pavilion. If we had the wool in there, we possibly would not have a lot of room for industry displays, etc. I also noted that the placing of personnel doors at the rear of the building needed considering as if we were to place two transportable offices at the rear, etc., perhaps we could not afford to lose penning space in the building. I was of the belief that only 10 metres (32.8 feet) wide was considered for the unloading area of the ramps at the rear, and I felt this was not enough as at the Robinson Pavilion we only had 9.1 metres (29.1 feet) which unless it was policed was difficult since we needed some storage space, and we would have vehicle movements. We would also have waste bins for the soiled straw and required room for a bobcat to operate. I would like to see this as wide as 12 metres (39.3 feet) minimum even if the building was 38 metres (124.6 feet) wide instead of 40 metres (131.2 feet) and then go to maybe 110 metres (360.8 feet) long to compensate for this. I asked that vented ridge capping be considered for the roof, but it was thought with the large openings high up in the walls of the building it would be sufficient and also exhaust fans were to be installed. I would like to see four roller doors 4.8 metres (15.7 feet) wide in the back wall along with the personnel doors. The reason for 4 roller doors would be to speed up the unloading and assist the straw removal in the morning. It would also allow us to have a stack of bedding straw inside some of these doorways for the next morning. Cr Bruce Campbell got back to me to say that there would be a roller door in both the west and eastern ends of the Robinson Pavilion near the back wall which would also assist in the circulation of air. The proposed gardens along the back fence on top of the ramp would need adjusting to allow for B-train sheep trucks to unload and load that were used for carting the Shearing Competition sheep. I noted that the floor was level and strongly disagreed with this because any urine would tend to pool in the building throughout the day and consequently after a few days the smell would be almost unbearable. I suggested that the floor slope towards the rear of the building by at least 15.2 centimetres (6 inches) which would be hardly noticeable across that width, but it would have the desired effect. It was agreed to install a drain the full length of the Pavilion, placed about 4 metres (13 feet) in from the back wall and has proved to be very successful for when we have rain come in the roller doors on the south

side or the area is hosed down, the floor it slowly drains to the north. I offered to attend any Planning Committee meetings if required as I believe we have to sell the concept of shifting the Exhibitors and it is essential to produce a most acceptable Pavilion for the dollars expended. One issue that was raised was parking, for down at the Robinson Pavilion the Exhibitors were able to park in a roped off area that extended from the large Moreton Bay fig tree south and up to Number 5 Gate. Some Exhibitors because they did not have sufficient locker space kept extra feed, etc. in the back of their vehicle. This issue was raised at a RAS Council meeting, and it was agreed that the RAS would provide an Exhibitor parking area at the rear of the Jim Horwood Pavilion on Private Road up to the Mofflin Gate (Gate 8). A Carcass Competition issue was raised at the meeting regarding the Awassi sheep entries in the Competition. Mr Tim Marshall felt that the tail (fat tail) should be removed before weighing a carcass. Discussion followed and it was moved that the tail be removed as per standard carcass definition. The Competition will be run the same as 1997 with the lambs booked on Monday for slaughter on Tuesday. The Lamb carcasses that were winners would be delivered to the Showground at the earliest to be displayed in the refrigerated glass display case. I had been able to obtain 100 CBH elevator buckets and through Property Services had brackets made to attach to them so they could be hung on the pen rails ready for use in the new Pavilion. Cr Peter John Dempster expressed concern about the air vents in the new building being open and the space around the wire insert allowing birds in and also the rain. A letter was written to the RAS Council requesting that mesh be installed on all louvres to prevent bird entry. It was noted that the new lockers were 1.62 metres (5.2 feet) x 2.4 metres (7.8 feet) whereas, the old lockers were only 1.2 metres (3.9 feet) x 1.3 metres (9.8 feet). I was under the impression that the water would be available from overhead pipes throughout the Pavilion. The 9 wall taps will need to have double taps on them to assist in providing more hoses and it was agreed that running the water in hoses suspended to the roof beams from the walls to the centre of a shed be implemented next year. There were no walking planks for the auctioneers and clerks along the centre of the pens to attach the pen cards to as in past years. New cards would be made numbering 1 to 1,000 with eyelets in the top corners so they could be attached to the rope (crayfish rope that Mr Ron Joyce a Cray Fisherman obtained when in season. The rope was suspended across the top centre of the pens on 2.54 centimetres (1 inch) box section uprights that we had attached. Also, to make it easier for everyone it was decided to use alphabetical numbering on each row throughout the Pavilion. This meant that if you told an Exhibitor he was in Row K pen 356 he would

know what direction to head to and that it would be on the north side of the centre alleyway. Finally, an Agenda item was proposed for the next Sheep Committee meeting to investigate the possibility of having more animals in the PRS after Wednesday. This could be considered on a rotation basis perhaps ??.

It had been suggested that we consider splitting the Sheep Show so as to accommodate the numbers as a way of solving the problem of not enough pens in each half.. Initially this was rejected because Exhibitors could only see the difficulties such as which Breeds were to go first, etc. What was to happen to the Saturday Ram Sale which did appear to be struggling for numbers anyway and how many days each Breed would have for showing. I felt I had a fairly good grip of the whole program. The Cramped Exhibitor space wasted sponsor promotion, extreme shortage of judging area and the general public's disappointment at the presentation of things were among the various things that induced a suggested change for a proposed format for future Sheep Shows. The cramped conditions for Exhibitors and for judging areas caused concern from the Exhibitors perspective and the general public relations exercise between the Stud Breeders and their clients. The sponsors of the Sheep Show deserved a far better set up for their promotional material and their sponsorship dollar by using judging rings panels for coverage, walls and hanging space would be an advantage. It was irrelevant whether the numbers of exhibits that we had in 1997 would continue but with the current program there were no sheep in the Pavilion to see after the Wednesday of the Sheep Show. The general public could leave the Robinson Pavilion having gained no more knowledge about sheep whether they may be Wool Breeds or Meat Breeds and it is the industry's responsibility to put this information out for the public to see. Following the November Sheep Committee meeting the proposed Working Paper has been adjusted keeping in mind the comments made by representatives from the Breed Societies and the RAS Administration. The RAS has noted that the penning arrangements would need to be completely reset for the Meat Breeds once the animals in the first half had been removed from the Pavilion. This would be a health requirement stipulated by the Department of Department and the Breed Societies. On the Monday public holiday there would still be some sheep in the Pavilion.

Before the next Sheep Committee meeting, I devised a Plan of how I thought it would work. The idea being to balance out numbers as best we could relative to the penning available. The Plan was to have Merinos, Corriedales, Drysdale's, Dorper's. Damaras, Melanian, the so

called Long Wool Breeds as I called them and goats in the Pavilion from Friday until Monday night or early Tuesday morning at the very latest with the British Breeds and others arriving not before 2.00 pm Tuesday afternoon. This would allow the RAS shed staff time to remove all the bedding straw, feed and water containers and replenish the pens used ready for the second half of the Sheep Show. The shearing would be held on the last Saturday of the PRS but to do this it would be necessary to have the exhibition sheep out of the Pavilion to allow room for shearing sheep on the Friday. To follow the Program as outlined above it became necessary to shift the shearing to the first Saturday. With the lesser numbers in the Pavilion under the proposed Plan there would be room to accommodate the shearing sheep in an open penned area and as the sheep would be gone by Saturday night it allowed the pens to be put in place commencing Sunday ready for the rest of the Show week.

Another problem was looming and ultimately would cause some friction within the ranks. To be a member of a Breed Society for the British Breeds and other Meat Breeds all of their sheep had to be tested negative for Brucellosis. This was not the case with the Merinos although some individual Breeders had tested and registered their stud as being Brucellosis free. Members of the Sheep Committee felt that if all the British Breeds and others had to abide by this legislation it also applied to Merino sheep. Mr Glen Keamy from the Stud Merino Breeders Association was adamant that the Merino breed did not contract Brucellosis and he felt it was imposing an extra cost and deterrent to Stud Breeders participating. Ultimately Miss Kerry Muir, Registrar and Executive Officer of the S M B A wrote to the RAS Council on 28 May 1999 re: Subject brucellosis. (History), on the 28 th October 1998 a meeting of the RAS Sheep Committee. A motion was passed making the Sheep Pavilion Brucellosis free commencing in 1999. This motion was endorsed by the R A S Council at their meeting on 16 December 1998. The RAS distributed letters directly to the appropriate Breed Societies and Associations dated 18 January 1999. All Exhibitors were also informed at the same time. A letter was received by the RAS on 23 March 1999 with a request from the S M B A from both its State Committee and Sheep Show Committee following a motion from the S M B A, AGM that the Merinos section at the PRS be deemed Brucellosis free and that the Ras refrain from penning non accredited Merino sheep near accredited Merino sheep. There were no dissenting votes at either meeting.

The RAS Sheep Committee response was that the policy currently in place remain to endorse the Brucellosis Policy. Mr Glen Keamy and Mr Brian Westlake attended the Sheep Committee meeting on 28 April 1999 and the Policy continued to be endorsed by the Sheep Committee. The S M B A requested an audience with the RAS Council and were invited to address the Council on 19 May 1999 and Mr Glen Keamy and Mr Brian Westlake attended

The S M B A perspective

Ovine Brucellosis is a sexually transmitted disease which is transferred from ram to ram only when, one is positive. The prevalence of Brucellosis is higher in British Breed rams because they are sexually active at a younger age than Merino sheep. However, any flock is at risk where young rams are run with older infected rams (Reference – Department of Agriculture Farm Note). Within WA (working on 31 December 1998 figures from the S M B A database), there are 480 Merino Studs supporting approximately 380,000 ewes and 139,000 ewe lambs (average of ewes per Stud equates approximately 800 ewes, 7,500 ram sires and 11,000 other rams. 42,500 rams were sold within the Stud industry alone. Totals for the Stud Merino industry as at 31 December 1998 stands at approximately 650,000.

In the overall WA Merino industry, there is approximately 14,000,000 ewes mated to Merino rams. According to the most recent British Breed flock book there are approximately 82 Studs supporting approximately 6,000 ewes averaging 75 ewes per Stud (information courtesy of Mr Glen Keamy taken from the latest A S B B S flock book). This does not include Poll Dorset, Texel South African sheep, etc.

Over the past 10 years, the incidence of Brucellosis in Merino Stud Flocks has been insignificant. It is commonly found that Brucellosis Merino flocks is where both British Breeds and Pol Dorset flocks are run in conjunction with Merino sheep. There is a clear management reasoning as to the higher incidence of Brucellosis in British Breed and Poll Dorset flocks, who have a smaller number of rams, being both older and younger rams run together, where the Merino Stud Breeder has larger numbers, he/ she runs with younger and older rams kept separately. The transfer of Brucellosis is more common with older rams to younger rams (Reference – Department of Agriculture Farm Note). It is seen that the Merino industry does not have a problem with Brucellosis because of its management practices. The Department of

Agriculture would be the catalyst for insisting that the current voluntary Brucellosis Accreditation Scheme was made compulsory if the problem was considered widespread throughout the WA sheep industry.

The only compulsory Brucellosis testing for the Merino industry is the requirement for the continuing Merino sale as an Export sale under the auspices of the Australian Stud Merino industry breeders. Most international countries require confirmation of the negative Brucellosis testing on an individual ram basis not the whole stud.

With reference to the PRS, the S M B A has no problem with individual Breed Societies insisting that full Brucellosis Accreditation or individual testing be done for the respective Breed Sections.

The lack of evidence of Brucellosis in the Merino sheep industry and the repercussions on other Agricultural Shows including RAS affiliated country shows, public sales and Competitions that take place throughout WA within the Merino sheep industry alone is enormous. The RAS is considered to be a leader in the agricultural sector and the implications of this policy especially the huge costs involved would place absolute unnecessary strain on an industry at a time when it is considered to be at its lowest and needs encouragement and stability.

Following this deputation, a letter was received from the S M B A. We request that the issue of Brucellosis Accreditation and testing continue to remain the requirement of the individual Breed Societies and the Stud Merino Breeders Association of WA Inc. It requests that the Merino Sheep Section be completely segregated from the rest of the Breeds at the PRS and within that Section that the normal practice of accreditation protection take place.

Signed Kerry Muir
Registrar and Executive Officer (S M B A).

The RAS Council invited Dr Ashley Mercy a veterinarian from the Department of Agriculture to address the next meeting. The outcome of this address and the discussion by Councillors that the RAS Sheep Show be Brucellosis free, and the Sheep Committee work towards achieving this aim. To assist with the endorsement of this policy the Department of Agriculture endorsed an arrangement whereby if an Exhibitor had nominated rams and required to enter them in the Sheep Show the Department was prepared to accept that a Breeder could have a Veterinary officer take blood samples and submit them to the

Department for testing. Providing all of the tests were negative the animals could be entered into an Agricultural Show. As Chairperson of the Sheep Committee, I made it my responsibility that as soon as entries are received the Sheep Committee Secretary produces a document that lists all Exhibitors names and addresses and phone numbers and states whether or not the Exhibitor has a fully accredited current Registration number, when and where the test was done and when their 3-year accreditation falls due. Also, the veterinarian's name and their Phone number so that I can contact him/ her direct if necessary. I have found that some veterinarians submit the samples with numbers and not names and I need to make contact to get the correct feedback. Once I have all this information, I can fax it to the Department to check it out as being correct. This is needed to be done as soon as possible as the Exhibitor may have time to take blood samples if necessary to get tested by the Department again. We can now go online to check Registrations these last few years.

In 1998, little did we know that the Sheep Show in the Robinson Pavilion was to be the last one and of course it was my first. I presented to the Sheep Committee and the RAS Council the following Report.

Report by Cr Kevin Cahill CIC Sheep Committee Chairperson on the 1998 Sheep Show:

The management of this Section for the 1998 PRS was a rewarding challenge for myself to be located in one spot for the PRS duration which was a far cry from being involved in 4 or 5 Sections visiting abattoirs, coordinating everyone and everything over the past 9 years.

Of approximately 877 sheep nominated, it was obvious a full house was imminent again. Around 834 sheep actually came forward and were penned representing 16 Breeds with White Suffolk and Texel sheep being shown for the first time. Whilst the Merino sheep numbers were down by approximately 160, the new Breeds and a slight increase in 3 or four British Breed groups, made up the difference. In the current climate I cannot see entries falling much in the foreseeable future, which will keep pressure on penning layout and management.

Because the southern roller door of the Robinson Pavilion was closed, this altered the traffic flow of people, and a change of layout was used that permitted the public greater access into the rows of sheep. From the comments received, I believe that more people took this opportunity to look at sheep. I also think this made it easier for Exhibitors to pen up and the wider central alleyway of 2 metres (6.5 feet) gave easier access

to the judging rings. The Pavilion staff commented that it was easier to clean as they only needed to push straw to the central laneway which was then removed by the front-end Loader Bobcat.

The Merino Ram sale on Saturday does create a lot of extra work and I feel it needs reviewing for 1999. I am of the opinion that it could be held on the same day as the British Breeds sale, namely Wednesday late morning and as the Prime Lamb would be gone early Monday morning, the pressure on penning will ease. I realise there are many other things to be considered, i.e., Quarantine, etc. but I feel solutions will be found if we discuss with all concerned

The Brucellosis issue was handled in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, and I apologise for any inconvenience caused to Exhibitors. However, the Schedule clearly states that animals must be Brucellosis Accredited and therefore in 1999 no entries will be accepted unless they conform to the Schedule. We intend to follow-up on the letter already given to Exhibitors at this year's Sheep Show to get the message across. The sports shearing on Friday evening went off quite well and did not pose any real problems from a management point of view and the sheep were well drained upon arrival at the Showground. I am pleased to now know what is involved and will be able to work more closely with Cr Peter Dempster in the future.

The Fibre Goats and Melanian, Sections fitted in well, however we need to look at arrival times as Pavilion staff are under too much pressure to clean out and to be ready for 7.00 am receivals on Thursday morning. An attempt was made to improve the unloading and loading situation. We will substantially improve on this in the future now that I have witnessed the event. I have made many notes over the Show week activities and feel we have a Sheep Committee who will assist by reviewing the complete program and endorse necessary changes. The sheep odour is at its worst when straw or sand is disturbed, particularly when pen breakdown occurs for shearing later in the week. We did try spraying with a scented solution and there was no doubt about it worked, however with judicious use of the exhaust fans and air conditioning on low and only a few units operating, I feel we kept things pretty good.

Several complaints were received, and I investigated them and noted that in the link area where photography is located there is a dead pocket as there are no windows or vents to let any air out and this needs some investigating as the air is trapped in there. Conditioners on low in the Silver Jubilee Pavilion would pressurise that area of the building and

keep area fresher. One complaint came from the kitchen Monday morning, so we sprayed the area and heard nothing more from them for the rest of the Show week. I spoke to attendants several times in the link area over Show week and they had no complaints. Let's face it if you put that many sheep together, you must expect something and after all it is the Sheep Show, what else can you expect. Since the Robinson Pavilion is now hired almost every weekend, the Ras Council should give consideration to building a management office block on the eastern side that can have telephones, power, etc. at least 2 telephones a single toilet/ shower and a small store room.

Annually, we are looking at \$2,000 for transportable office hire. Everyone who uses the Pavilion has this problem and I am sure they would appreciate it. We have a live in person for the Show week for obvious safety reasons, who has no facilities accessible to them at night, as the southern toilet block is blocked off. I intend to submit this suggestion as a budget item. This I did, but did not get looked at favourably at any point of time

Sponsors support of the Sheep Show was very evident, and we are indebted to them for this and look forward to their continued support in 1999.

My sincere thanks to Mr Ron Joyce and his offsidiers for their work over a 2-week period. Also, to the members of the Sheep Committee for their guidance and assistance and all the Breed Society personnel who conducted the judging Competitions throughout the Show week. The Judges I spoke to were complementary as to how things were run.

Finally, to Miss Kerry Muir our Sheep Committee Secretary, my sincere thanks for the role she played in a job well done, and her guidance given to me in my first year. I enjoyed the challenge.

Cr Kevin Cahill
Sheep Committee CIC



BOER GOATS VIEWING THE MARKET

**BOER GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
of AUSTRALIA LTD**

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Postal Address:

Secretary-Noleen Golding

32 Holmes Road

Oakford 6121

6 October 2006

Dear Kevin

On behalf of all the competitors in the Boer Goats section at the Perth Royal Show, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for your assistance and effort in providing a part of the shed.

All competitors were very grateful and impressed with the consideration we were given.

Thankyou once again, and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Kind regards

Sally Morrison

President.

Letter of Appreciation from the Boer Goat Breeders Association (WA) to the Chairman that is always well received.

For many years the Photography Section had been operating from the Mezzanine floor room on the right-hand side as you walk up the stairs in the Silver Jubilee Pavilion. Things were a bit cramped particularly when a small room was created by hanging up black plastic to provide a darkened area to project photos in at the time. Past President Tom Wilding had retained the Photography Section from his appointment prior to becoming President and continued on after his term for a number of years. Photography was shifted from there to an area between the levels of the Silver Jubilee Pavilion and the Robinson Pavilion on the lower level. This was not actually successful for when I conducted the Sheep Show in the Robinson Pavilion in 1998 you could smell the sheep more and more by the end of Show week. Even though

we tried treating it with a recommend smell reduction product it was not successful and obviously sheep needed to be shifted and ultimately the new Jim Horwood Pavilion was our only way to do this.

Finding the Photography, a new home was solved by work which had been going on in what is known formally as the Department of Agricultural building fronting Viveash Avenue which was named the Wilkinson Art Gallery (after President Arthur Wilkinson 1969 to 1971). This refurbishment back to its former glory by RAS staff allowed for Art to be hung in front part of the Gallery and Photography in the rear off Gull Avenue and has proved to be a very successful move.

In late 1990 Cr Charles Peter (Peter) Dring raised the issue at the RAS Council meeting that Landcare was a very active movement across the State at the present time and maybe the RAS we should promote this at the PRS. Councillors agreed with this suggestion and Cr Peter Dring was appointed CIC and a Committee was formed to bring this to fruition at the next PRS. He approached Landcare and the Department of Agriculture and was given a budget and between them all a very successful educational display was presented. This has continued for quite a number of years now and Educating the Public has been a feature of every display.

The Brucellosis issue had not gone away and in 1999 I had planned the Pavilion so that the Brucellosis Accredited animals across all Breeds would be penned separately to the Breeders with non-accredited sheep. This created a bit of a furore as the non-accredited Breeders felt they were discriminated against. As far as I was concerned, they needed to play their part and become accredited like everyone else. The RAS Council backed the Sheep Committee to enforce the accreditation program and from 2000 onwards all sheep have either been from fully accredited properties or have had their rams tested under the Department of Agriculture Protocol whereby rams coming to a Sheep Show must all have a blood test, and all be negative. I personally have checked these details every year since the program was implemented and initially all British Breed Exhibitors did not pose much of a problem because to be a member of the Breed Society they must be accredited. However, with Merino sheep I would have a handful of Accredited Studs and then may be 10 or 15 studs whom I needed to follow-up with to see if they had had the tests done and in most cases I needed to know the veterinarian who had bled their rams so as to get the results because I found that some vets send the samples in under a number and not a name and it is necessary to correlate these. By checking the entry forms

as early as possible after they are lodged at the RAS it is possible for someone who has not tested to get them tested as soon as possible and get a result for me prior to the Show.

One year a major Merino stud and exhibitor came up with a positive and I immediately thought so much for Mr Glenn Keamy emphatically stating that Merinos do not get Brucellosis. I was walking to the phone at home as it rang, and the Exhibitor told me of his problem and the fact that he would be withdrawing all his entries from the Sheep Show because of this positive test. The withdrawal was done as was expected and everything went as expected by all concerned. It is interesting to note that now there are only four or five Merino Breeders who show at the Sheep Show that are not fully accredited as part of the health status of their flock. I do feel we have achieved something by sticking to our guns on this matter and the sheep industry is all the better off for what has been achieved.

These days most Studs are accredited. Another Pre-Show job that I used to do with 1 or 2 of the Sheep Committee members was prepare the Exhibitors envelopes with all the information needed for penning their exhibits. This cannot be done until a Catalogue is produced by the office for this is when an Exhibitor is allocated an exhibitor number necessary for his/ her identification and participation in the Sheep Show. Some Exhibitors think this number on the tag is their pen number, but it bears no relation to pens whatever. Their pen number is on their Exhibitors tag with a string attached which also shows the Class. A Pen number can be written on the card by the Exhibitor to make his/ her job of returning animals after judging to the correct pen . An Exhibitor will have an exhibitor tag for every animal he/ she enters in the Sheep Show and he/ she needs to take this tag with him/ her or attach it to the exhibit when he/ she presents the exhibit to the judge in the judging ring. The Exhibitor can choose which animal he places in which of the pens so as to best represent his/ her stud. The envelope also contains a Catalogue and fodder tickets if he/ she has placed an order for fodder from Property Services when he/ she made his/ her entries. These articles are placed in a large Brown envelope and on the outside of the envelope we write the name of his/ her Breed, row of pen, pen numbers and locker numbers. All Exhibitors are entitled to 1 locker, however if he/ she has more than 15 entries he/ she is entitled to 2 lockers and must supply his/ her own lock for security. We endeavour to place lockers near to where the Exhibitor has his/ her sheep but however this is not always practical due to the number of entries in the various Breeds. Boy can you cop some flak if this cannot be done. Once all of the envelopes have been

prepared, they are placed in empty printer paper cartons and are placed on the cupboard just inside the door of the Sheep Office.

The Exhibitors know to come and get their 'Brown' envelope before they can unload so as to know what door to unload at being closer to their pens. This saves a lot of confusion, and I am sure helps the unloading process to a large degree. Also, in the Sheep Office on the wall opposite the envelope box there is a Pavilion Plan that they can refer to assist them. I always feel by doing this job it gives you an idea of what is going on and makes it easier if a hiccup occurs. The first half of the Sheep Show is a breeze because approximately only half the pens are being used, but in the second half when all pens are required and if numbers exceed pens available it may be necessary to juggle pens by cleaning out the Prime Lamb pens as they have been tagged, weighed, and sent off to the abattoir. I would ring several of the Exhibitors living nearest to the Showground and asked them not to be in till around 5.00 pm Tuesday to give us a chance to clear the pen and place fresh bedding straw and feed containers in place for their arrival.

In the first half of the Sheep Show it is necessary to provide Pavilion space for up to 600 sheep on the Friday night for Saturdays Shearing Competition. This could make space a bit tight however for the World Shearing Competition in 2011 the RAS Council agreed to provide a permanent covered area on the landing on the west side of the Jim Horwood Pavilion which would give us extra room. I had along with Cr Peter Dempster been asking for this for many years but full marks to Cr Dudley Frank Preston who was now the shearing CIC for achieving this when he took over Cr Peter Dempster's job. Once the sheep are shorn, they are immediately loaded onto a semi-trailer that pull up on the ramp in the unloading area on the north side of the building and are gone by Saturday evening. The Pavilion staff can then use Sunday and Monday to erect the rows of pens in the area used for shearing sheep. We can erect pens in rows A to Q giving us about 700 pens.

For many years Cr James Kentish (Jim) Horwood from his York property had been supplying the hay and bedding straw for use on the Showground and had been storing the hay undercover until it was required. Unfortunately, in July 2003 Cr Jim Horwood passed away and later the property was sold which meant in 2004 a new source of fodder supplies was required. The Asset Services section (was originally Property Services) Manager Mrs Gerri Short asked me if I could help out. I rang a few people I knew at York and was given the name of Mr David Wallace who strangely enough was the son of Mr David Wallace whom I had known through JF in the 1950's and 1960's and tourism in

the 1980' s and his wife Mrs Margaret Wallace whom I knew through tourism. I explained to Mr David Wallace what was required, and would he be able to store the fodder until we required it. I believe he put up an extra shed to make sure he had sufficient fodder for our requirements. We agreed on the price for 1,500 bales of straw and 300 bales of oaten hay which was GST inclusive and could be delivered August/ September or earlier if required. Mr David Wallace was happy with the arrangements because he knew this sale was guaranteed for later in the year. He has a machine to strap up to 20 small bales in a pack that can be handled by a front-end loader and does away with any manhandling until we cut a pack in the Hay Shed at the Showground.

As a farmer I am well aware of how the season can have an effect on the quality of the material baled. In 2009 York had had a pretty lean season as far as making hay was concerned. Mr David Wallace rang me and said he was going to bail straw off the back of the header as the standing crop was very light and this was one way of getting enough material in the windrow to bail. The Tom Wilding Pavilion had been set up and the Alpaca Committee members had had a meeting at the Showground and inspected this straw laid out in the pens and condemned it as not being satisfactory and refused to use it. One of the Alpaca Committee members had e-mailed the Alpaca Exhibitors and had advised them of the condition of the straw and consequently they told Asset Services that they all refused to use it. Asset Services Manager Mrs Gerri Short rang me and asked me that when I came to the next Council meeting would I have a look at the straw and pass on an opinion. I said I would and took Cr Bill Trend who worked for the Department of Agriculture with me to the Tom Wilding Pavilion to have a look at this straw. While it was evident it came from the windrow from behind the header it had straws about 25.4 centimetres (10 inches) long, had some grain and caving's, and as far as we could see it would serve the purpose even though it would not hold together as much as paddock raked straw. No doubt the animals would enjoy the grain and caving's, but this should not distract from the purpose for which it was required. I conveyed our thoughts to Mrs Gerri Short who said they had about 10 or 12 bales of straw from the previous year in the Hay Shed, could I possibly find about another 20 to 25 bales of old straw to add to this and they would use it for the alpaca and advise them of this move. Cr Bill Trend and I were confident that the sheep and cattle Exhibitors would not be very much concerned about this straw. I rang Mr Laurie Fairclough at York who was on the Sheep Committee and also an Exhibitor and asked him if he had any old season straw, he thought a moment and then said he was confident there was about 30 bales in an

old house on one of his properties and agreed to get in touch with Mr Dave Wallace to pick this up which solved the Alpaca problem. The things we do for Exhibitors. During the Sheep Show I asked a number of sheep Exhibitors were they happy with the bedding that the RAS had supplied, they all agreed that they could understand the circumstances and as far as they were concerned the bedding material was quite satisfactory. Mrs Gerri Short and I were annoyed at the Alpaca woman who had emailed all of her fellow Exhibitors and caused this fuss because we felt that if they had come to the Showground, they would have to accept what was placed before them. The last couple of years when going to my farm in Merredin I have deviated to Mr David Wallace's farm at York and had a look at the new seasons fodder he intends to supply the RAS and have advised Mrs Gerri Short my views of the quality of fodder after talking to Mr David Wallace and looking at the bales in his hay shed.

1999 Report

In 1999 the advent of the new Jim Horwood Pavilion was going to be a challenge for everyone because of the new location. The Shearing Committee convinced me that they needed to be located down the eastern end of the Pavilion directly in front of the second roller door amongst the Merino sheep. Penning was placed around this location down to the Western roller doors with some Wagin Woolorama pens to cater for numbers. This turned out to be a huge mistake as the shearing stand was used on the Saturday and again for shearing Stud Merinos after Saturday's auction. The shearing board then lie idle for the rest of the week. A bad blue. The numbers in 1999 were 959 slightly up on the previous year plus of course the goats which took up about 30 pens each year and to have them all in at once meant we were pushed for room. Something needed to be done and hence the split Sheep Show would be raised again. The matter of the location of the shearing platform was raised and some heated discussion took place about relocating it to the western corner of the Jim Horwood Pavilion.

Unfortunately, it was placed square on in the corner the next year which was again not satisfactory. The following year it was turned to the angle that it is today, and I had Mr Ron Joyce weld the stands together for stability and installed run out chutes to get shorn animals to the rear of the stand for the judges to assess the cleanliness of the shearing and if there were any skin cuts of consequence before they were released to go back on the semi-trailer. This allowed the floorspace of the Pavilion to be used for penning of Competition sheep as necessary. With this location demonstration shearing throughout the week could be conducted without interference to the other judging Competitions. Some

floor space could be used to hold the shearing sheep Friday to Saturday night without interfering with the rest of the program.

During the show Brian Barnett from Seven Oaks stud called a meeting of Merino exhibitors to discuss the show in the new pavilion. He opened the meeting and asked the exhibitors to use this meeting as a positive step for the future. Brian acknowledged the work of Kevin Cahill, C I C-Sheep, and the Ras in developing the new pavilion. There have been some problems this year but that was to be expected in such a major change.

Issues

1 Parking - Kevin outlined the use of the Army barracks for trucks and trailers and that this will continue as the grounds do not have the facility to cater for them. Kevin will address council with the view of getting an allocation of bays on the Ras land opposite the Ashton gate.

2 Split show -Kevin expressed concern at the lack of sheep at the show on the last Friday and Saturday, And also that with a combined show the shed was at capacity. The idea of a split show was conceived, and Merino exhibitors asked to be given the first part of the show. Kevin mentioned that if this was the case, the merino breeders all this state would need to support the show with greater numbers. If this year was repeated it would be unacceptable to only have 150 sheep in the shed for the first and busiest part of the show (for Show patrons). Exhibitors felt this was possible and that encouragement be given to include short wool sheep, fines and super fines at the Perth Royal show. Having the split show would assist Merino breeders brucellosis concerns as no other sheep would be in the shed. Kevin and the committee to explore the possibility of a split show with the Merino breed having the first part the show.

3 Wool & Sheep - concern was expressed at the distance between wool and sheep exhibits on the ground during the show period.

4 Other Breeds - Merino breeders would like more consideration given to the type of breed that is penned next to them if next year is not a split show.

5 Space for Sponsors – A positive for the split show would be greater space for sponsors and promotion of Breeds. It may also allow enough room for the wool to be displayed in the pavilion.

6 Gates - Gates were requested on all lanes to facilitate easier and Safer movement of sheep during the show.

7 Floor - the slippery floor was a concern not only for exhibitors and prize animals but more importantly the public, as it is an accident waiting to happen. Kevin explained this was the reason for leaving the straw on the ground and also the floor had improved slightly by the end of the Show.

8 Pens - Chains and Hooks on all pens to be repaired as many are missing.

9 Water system – Lack of access to water and the system established for this year was unsatisfactory. Kevin also expressed concern at this and was dismayed

when only single taps were originally installed. This system is to be evaluated and improved for 2000.

10 Drainage - Concern expressed at the drainage systems and that it was necessary to walk out the back to dispose of waste water. There should be drains under each tap.

11 Straw - Exhibitors requested better quality straw for next year's Show.

12 Judging - exhibitors were happy to have sheep judged in the open arena at the eastern end of the pavilion and would like to have this for the 2000 show if possible.

Brian and Kevin thanked everyone for their attendance and we're confident many good things would come from the meeting.

The next Sheep Committee meeting saw considerable time spent discussing our move to the new Jim Horwood Pavilion and about the only downside was the fact that the public did not know where we were located on the Showground which was going to be a challenge. A split Sheep Show was discussed again and as I had given it a fair bit of thought the following program was discussed and ultimately agreed to for the 2000 Sheep Show. Also, it was discussed by the Sheep Committee that to create more interest in each Breed we introduce a Feature Breed for the Sheep Show. Mr Glen Keamy nominated the Merino breed as being prepared to take this on in 2000.

Sheep Section Report -2000

Well, it can be done is an apt statement to summarise the 2000 sheep show. The thought of a split Sheep Show had been around for 2-3 years. However its reality and support by exhibitors was for me a reward for the time, effort and planning necessary to bring it to fruition.

Unforeseen advantages manifested themselves such as less pressure of the numbers of stock, exhibitors, vehicles, parking, paperwork, judging events, presentations, and daily running more spread over the week rather than concentrated in a few days as in the past. We had a full complement of sheep for nine days.

Overall the presentation of Wool, Goats, Goat fibre, Shearing and Sheep, coupled to banners and sponsorship material led to a colourful pavilion over the period of the show.

The Farm Weekly Sheep Show as it is now known was launched on a good note for the year 2000 and we sincerely thank them for this sponsorship which I believe runs for two more years.

Merino 2000: Congratulations to Mrs Julie Keamy and Carol Hardie for their presentation on behalf of the S M B A recognising 2000 as the year of the Merino. Thank you to counsellor Ellie Eaton for her cooperation in dovetailing in this project with the wool display which enhanced the Western end of the pavilion. Whilst the wool display crowded the Saturday shearing audience floor area, I feel this can be improved on next year with planning.

Shearing : The shift of the shearing competitions to the first weekend proved successful, and certainly having the stands set up greatly eased the pressure on the shed staff. We were able to use this to advantage with shearing demonstrations on the hour throughout the week. A sincere thank you to Kevin Gellatly and John Lindberg for cooperating and supplementing the tremendous job done by Ron Niven for providing shearing demonstrations over the show period.

Numbers: For the first we had 31 exhibitors , 388 sheep and approximately 120 goats occupying approximately 508 pens. the second half saw 74 exhibitors, 558 sheep plus 54 goats occupying approximately 612 pens. Admittedly the prime lambs were gone by lunchtime Wednesday which freed up some 30 pens which was part of the alternative space needed it rain prevented outside judging.

Rain: There was a contingency plan for both periods had rain occurred. Unfortunately for farming circles this didn't happen, however this non-event did not auger well as far as judging was concerned, and no doubt was a contributing factor to the success of the whole event. Having the outside judging facility was very favourably commented on and management wise both the Merino end Poll Dorset exhibitors appreciated the facility. I consider this a very worthwhile investment for the RAS to have made and the Shade clothe cover will have other uses for the RAS. It was designed and purchased to free stand wherever needed. We can develop the outside judging area in the future to be user friendly.

Change over: The changeover was a challenge, and I cannot speak highly enough of the tremendous physical effort resulting in a 14 hour day put in by the six shed staff and I to achieve this. The hiring of the

little “Dingo” Bucket to push alleyway’s is now a necessary part of shed cleaning and must be retained as an annual function. To ease the burden for the future an extra four shed staff at least are required to be added for half day Monday & Tuesday to facilitate this change-over. As it was this year it was a little pick up and I appreciated the approach taken by exhibitors in preparing their own pens, etc. For those of you not familiar with the task, something like 250 bales of straw were shovelled by hand from 500 pens, all water and feed troughs removed, 100 extra pens set up and about 300 bales of straw carted back in to go into the pens, together with a fresh set of water and feed troughs placed through 600 odd pens, plus stock, all in the space of 24 hours. Having a larger carrier for the fork lift allowing up to 30 bales at a time to be carted was a bonus, that I had built and brought down from the farm. I am confident we will fine tune this programme next year Particularly eastern barred equipment handy rounded up in time (note we now have 3 of our 4 wheel trolley’s back after only having two for part of the show)

Banners: an area of concern is banner hanging as it is a time consuming business that adds so much to the overall appearance, and is, of course, an obligation we have our sponsors, we need to develop a better method to approach this.

Presentations: we still need to tidy up this area as getting results processed quickly is still a problem. It was intended to try a fax machine this year but didn't get around to it this year and relied on carrying results down regularly. My sincere thanks to Paul Carter and Dean Cahill for looking after this important area. We did it better than in 1999 but it is still a challenge. Also getting prize cards back needs improving on as the first lot of exhibitors had departed before theirs arrived. Maybe an extra card printer for the first four days of the show could be handy.

Sale: the success all this was no doubt a reflection of the season. Being the last Saturday is not a problem. There are ideas to streamline this, and I am in full agreement that we look at all of these options.

Stock Departure: this was controlled and well conducted in loading out platforms we use as intended. It showed it can be done.

Overall I consider it to have been a very successful event and my sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed towards this, especially Property services. Wendy and Roxanne for office support Paul Carter & Dean Cahill for on the spot assistance and Ron Joyce and assistants for tremendous effort when the pressure was on. A split show can be achieved

Fellow Counsellors in Ellie Eaton from the Wool committee, Margaret Addison from the Meat and Fibre Goat committee and Peter Dempster

from the Shearing committee and Prime lambs who supported the overall approach taken to present the first combined Sheep / Wool Show ever staged at the Perth Royal under one roof Kevin

Cahill C I C of Sheep 2000

Mrs Julie Keamy (Mr Glen Keamy's wife and Mrs Carol Hardie of S M B A were responsible for putting on an excellent display of woollen garments, etc. as part of the First Feature Breed presentation. Mr Glen Keamy had moved at the Sheep Committee meeting that we hire a balloon to go on the roof to show where the sheep were at a cost shared between the Sheep Committee and S M B A. Breed boards that used to hang on the wall in the Robinson Pavilion which gave a brief history of the Sheep Breed and its role in the sheep industry. Unfortunately, when the Robinson Pavilion extensions were being done these were taken out and stacked against the north-west light tower and left there all winter which destroyed the masonite boards. I approached Mr Trevor Emery from Farm Weekly if they were prepared for naming rights to cover the cost of new Breed Boards. The Breed Society was asked to provide a good photograph of a ram, ewe, and lamb if possible and a brief outline of the history of the Breed. The Breed Boards cost about \$1,200.00 to produce and Farm Weekly through Mr Trevor Emery provided finance for this, and 9 Breed Boards were replaced over the ensuing years.

Unfortunately, the RAS Marketing replaced these Boards in 2014 and I do not think the banners are quite as informative as the original Breed Boards.

When we moved into the Jim Horwood Pavilion, we needed to scrounge and scrape to achieve many of the improvements that are there today. Mr Laurie Connell had had frames made to close off the front of the cattle stalls for when he conducted a yearling Horse Show and Sale at the Showground. These were laying idle, and I made use of them by cutting the 2.45 centimetres (1 inch) box section frame up to provide the poles at the end of each row of pens to attach the rope (Cray rope) to that Mr Ron Joyce was able to lay his hands on so as to suspend all of our cards, etc. The mesh we used up to make crates nailed to a pallet for storing the water and feed buckets in. I purchased clothes line wire plus swivels and eye bolts that we used for mounting the water hoses with loops and hooks on these wires suspended just below the steel principles in the roof.

By putting double taps on all of the watering points along the wall on either side we were able to plug-in a hose that would when being pulled out reach approximately 25 metres (82 feet) out to the centre of the Pavilion. A trigger tap end on it allowed the Exhibitors to move from pen

to pen to water their animals. This has proved to be a huge benefit when it comes to keeping water up to the animals. I used to get pretty upset with Finance and Asset Services for their negative attitude towards some of the maintenance or improvement on facilities that I wanted to do. A good example was the fact that the side panels for an aluminium race disappeared during the PRS. I requested their replacement for 3 to 4 years and eventually I shaped the 4 pieces of 2.45 centimetres (1 inch) box section which were about 90 mm (3.54 inches) long at the farm and drilled the 5/16 holes in them. Through Asset Services I took a work order to Bunnings and purchased the necessary railings and asked my son Mr Dean Cahill to drill and make up the panels for the race.

There are 4 raised platforms (truck Height) about 3 metres square on 8 x 4 tyres with grating floors and panelling with sliding gates on 2 sides that were built in the days of the Robinson Pavilion. Probably requested by Cr Malcolm Seymour to be used for unloading sheep or moving sheep around within the Pavilion. One is utility height and the other 3 truck height. They always seem to have flat tyres, so I make sure I have my little compressor with me to attend to them. Only recently have we had tubes replaced and things are more satisfactory. I have always had a good working relationship with the Manager and staff at Asset Services and this means a lot when you request assistance or want something to overcome a problem that has occurred.

It was unfortunate that when the concrete floor was laid in the Jim Horwood Pavilion the concrete was levelled with a floating steel trowel when in actual fact it should have been broom trowelled to leave a rough surface. To make matters worse a sealant was painted on the smooth surface to complete the job. This has turned out to be a tragedy as the floor is too slippery not only for the sheep but for the public. We had many sheep slip over once they stepped off the straw in the pens and several ewes were destroyed as they were no good for breeding purposes. The matter came to a head when several members of the public slipped over and in particular one lady who broke her teeth and made a claim for replacement. I was somewhat disappointed as I had been in touch with the Cement Association and had made enquiries about what was the best sealant to put on the concrete to try and stop the urine from penetrating the concrete. I never really got an answer from Cr Bruce Campbell as to why he did not insist on this being used and was annoyed more when the Pavilion came in considerably under budget. It got to the stage where if we did not do something about it several Exhibitors had stated they would not return to the PRS. I made enquiries as to how we could overcome this problem and the best advice

was that we should shot blast the concrete to create a rough surface and solve the problem. The only thing that was a worry was the very high cost of doing whatever method we chose. The only way we could help reduce costs was to only shot blast all of the walkways between where the pens were located, which meant of course that the layout of the shed would need to stay the same year after year. I did not see this as much of a problem as it seemed we would have to stay with the same layout to cater for maximum numbers. To do the whole shed quotes received would be anywhere from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00. To reduce costs by marking out and only doing alleyways and painting on a chemical sealant over the roughed-up area the best quote was about \$15,000.00. RAS Council agreed that we go down this path way and I made arrangements with a Mr Mike Grabes to undertake the job. To shot blast about 10 millimetres (7/16 of an inches) off the surface would cost between \$5.00 to \$7.00 a square metre (3.3 feet) and to then roll on the sand seal at a cost of \$430.00. A 200 litre (44 gallon) drum and would require 4 200 litre (44 gallon) drums. I made up a measuring stick that gave a pen an alleyway measurement and pre-marked the floor before they started shot blasting. The shot blasting work was done in the Pre-Show period, but a couple of the Pavilion staff came in early to assist with the rolling on of the sealer. This sealer was a powder and a liquid that we needed to mix in set proportions. Unfortunately, we were not told about the dangers of inhaling the powder and one of the Pavilion staff who was doing the mixing finished up in hospital with breathing trouble. After several days things cleared up and he was okay. It has turned out to be very successful and as the concrete ages, things will get better and better. Here we are almost twenty years later, and the smell has been kept under control to this point in time.

As a historical note the original sheep yards at the Showground in the vicinity of the Jim Horwood Pavilion, sheep were shown there until 1965 when the Robinson Pavilion was built and used until 1999 when sheep moved to the Jim Horwood Pavilion. An Exhibitor named Mr Bill Toovey of the Yenmore Romney Marsh Stud has shown sheep in all 3 locations.

About 1995 Damara sheep first appeared at the PRS and immediately this caused trouble with the Merino Exhibitors because they shredded their wool, and the black fibres were a no-no as far as the Merino industry was concerned. When wool was relocated down to the Jim Horwood Pavilion, I always placed the Damara exhibits the north-west row of pens alongside that roller door. A couple of years later a wool Exhibitor said he would not show any more because he could see the black fibres from the Damara sheep wafting across and contaminating

his white wool in the display boxes. Have you ever heard of anything so ridiculous however the friction was growing, and the decision would need to be made? As luck happened all the Damara Exhibitors had disappeared except one who had now shown for about 3 years on his own. Technically he should not have been awarded any prizes or trophies because a by-law of the RAS states that an Exhibitor must have Competition to be eligible for Awards. This provided a legitimate means of saying to the Exhibitor he could not compete unless he had Competition and as luck happened, he could not get Competition and did not show his Damara sheep any more. This turned out to be an easy way of solving the problem without causing too much ill feeling. Everyone has been happy ever since.

One of the biggest problems that Pavilion will always have is the danger of fire and for many, many years the practice had been for a person to sleep inside the building usually in a caravan in the hope of early detection of one of these events. In the Jim Horwood Pavilion we were placing a caravan in the north-west corner behind the shearing platform for this purpose and Mr Ron Joyce used to live in there throughout the Show week. Here we are 20 odd years later and we have a situation where there is no facility for the person who is on duty overnight to stay inside. In fact now he overnights in a Donga outside the building which I am not very happy about, as if a fire started which is the greatest worry it would take time before he was aware of it. He would then have to ring the fire brigade and gain access as quick as possible and hope to be able to get to one of the fire hoses provided inside and attempt to quell the blaze if possible. Something we never hope will ever happen as it would be a catastrophe for the RAS and Exhibitors.

The peculiar, shaped Alcoa building in Hardwick Avenue had outlived its usefulness as the shape and design was not all that suitable for PRS purposes. The building was demolished, and the Dairy Industry Association (WA) erected and financed the Dairy Industry Building. To be used as permanent offices on a 25-year commitment. Opening plaque unveiled in 1997 by Hon. Monty House MLA (Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Member for Stirling). In 2004 the building was re-named the Lou Giglia Dairy Pavilion. The Pavilion was in recognition of President Luigi Alexander (Lou) Giglia tremendous contribution to the dairy industry and also the RAS. Things were not going smoothly in the dairy industry and the building was sold to the RAs in 2003 and the dairy industry withdrew their operations from the Showground. A Plaque was unveiled in 2004 by The Hon. Dr G Gallop MLA (Premier of Western Australia). It is however a reasonably well-designed building for show purposes and usually attracts very large crowds throughout the show.

By 2000 there had been considerable talk about shifting the wool from the Wool Pavilion on Viveash Avenue down to the Horwood Pavilion to inside the south west roller door so as to have the sheep & wool Industry located in one place. There were fore and against issues over this move, so I thought the easiest thing to do was to measure the Wool Pavilion and allow a similar space in the south-west corner of the Jim Horwood Pavilion. It turned out that a similar area would be to use from the left-hand side of the south roller door out to a line back from the fire door in the western wall. This meant it would not encroach too much on the sheep showing area and if anything, it did restrict the viewing area for the shearing Competition. Cr Ellie Eaton and her Wool Committee agreed with this area, and they moved in 2000 to coincide with Merino sheep being the Feature Breed of the PRS. Cr Ellie Eaton made sure that she fully used the area allocated to the extent that she maintained the extra wide alleyways through the rows of all wool tables which were more than double the viewing alleyways throughout the sheep pens. Again, the issue of showing the black and coloured wools amongst white wools was raised. It was pointed out that they are all part of the wool industry. Cr Ellie Eaton Ely set up the Melanian Society and her black wool shop alongside which, irked some.

First wool Report from the Jim Horwood Pavilion ---2000

The move to the new position in the western end of the Jim Horwood pavilion went smoothly and fitted in with the sheep and shearing as an industry.

The coloured hessian to cover the stands improved the appearance of the whole section. The large wall posters and display and trial of little sheep on stands organised by Mrs Julie Keamy on behalf of the stud Merino Breeders as feature breed of the year 2000 added colour and interest to the section as well as the woollen garments loaned by Woolmark of sports wool as well as other garments.

In 2001 any wall hangings must be up prior to the wool being in the boxes i.e. on the Thursday or Friday prior to judging day. Next year will require another 400 new row boxes as the old ones are getting grubby. The older ones could be offered to country agricultural societies rather than being dumped, these could be collected on a group meeting day.

A permanent office to be installed 12 foot by 4 foot with a lockable loft on top for storage all equipment in a safe place and dustproof area . The office to be positioned in the southwest corner with electricity and telephone installed no later than two weeks prior to the show as this section starts receiving and setting up on the Monday two weeks prior to the commencement of the show. The office being situated in 2000 at the back of the shed proved difficult as it was too far away to hear the phone and very difficult to access through the crowd on shearing days. The shearers used it as a change room. A separate phone line is required from the sheep section office for 2001.

I have requested that the wool section equipment be stored back in the old wool loft for the present until safe and suitable storage for the fragile wool domes, wool boxes, and bolts of coloured hessian.

Apologies to the sheep shearing committee as our display of wool and woollen goods encroached on their seating space and entry to the weekend shearing competition.

In 2001 a different configuration will be done to fit in with that weekend activity.

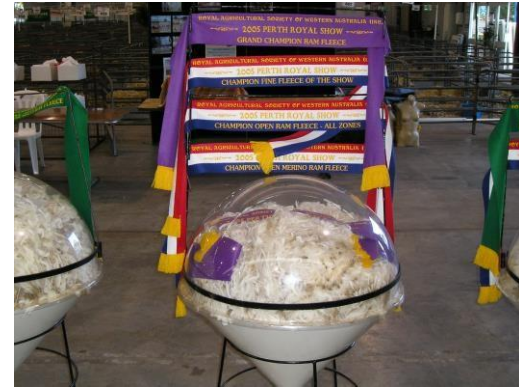
The wool trophy presentation will have to change to possibly Sunday instead of Saturday as this clashed with the calling of the Trans -Tasman Shearing Competition.

Unfortunately the positioning of the goats and the subsequent odour put a lot of people off from even entering the pavilion to see the wool display.

My thanks to the voluntary stewards Des Del Marco, Keith Timmel, Graham Fitzmaurice, Ray Lowrie, and Kimble Curtis for his computer work, and chief steward John Manthorpe, and section steward during the show John Wilson as well as all the students from colleges and schools. I special mention to the students from Lochridge High School who came in for two days of their school holidays to cover Monday judging day and Tuesday setting up.

Last but not least a thank you too Wendy Cook for her prompt attention to all the details when required and Roxanne Knott for setting up the Trophy presentation.

Ellie Eaton Councillor in charge of wool committee 17/10/2000.



First Wool Display in Jim Horwood Pavilion showing Excessive floor space and winning fleece

Cr Michael Jones was impressed with the display cases that were used at the Adelaide Royal Show. These are about 5 metres (16.4 feet) long by 3 metres (9.8 feet) high and 1 metre (3.3 feet) deep with sliding Perspex on the front and a light in the top corner at the rear to show off the fleeces. He obtained several quotes to have them built but this was far too costly. As an alternative Cr Michael Jones, he asked the RAS Council to see if the RAS Adelaide sell one to us and the WA RAS could get the Carpenter at Asset Services to build the number that we required. This was agreed to by Finance, Asset Services, and the RAS Council and over the next 2 years a full set of these wool showcases were built. Because there are 3 shelves in each structure the displays do not seem to take up as much room as the old benches that had been used since 'Adam was a boy' and consequently the Wool display takes on a whole new appearance.

New Display Box created by Asset Services



Recent Wool CIC's have modified the layout and as a result less area is required for the displaying of wool. This naturally means room for some other displays in that area. The Melanin Society usually have a good display of coloured wools and Spinning and Weaving though I must admit that most of these are supplied by Cr Ellie Eaton and husband Mr Ray Eton from their Goomalling property.

In 2002 Cr Ellie Eaton decided that she would retire from the RAS Council as she was elected in 1982 and in 2003 it meant she had been 21 years on Council with 15 of those years being spent as CIC of the Wool Committee after taking over from Cr James Harcourt (Jim) Shepherd in 1988. Her other areas of interest were as in the Craft Section where she demonstrated spinning and also was responsible for fashion parades that the RAS ran in the Wool Theatre in conjunction with the Australian Wool Board. Being the first woman on a RAS Council in Australia, the RAS Council decided to break with tradition of only using Presidents names on buildings and named the Wool Pavilion the Ellie Eaton Pavilion and Theatre in 2004 with a plaque unveiled by Cr Ellie Eaton in the presence of husband Mr Raymond Eaton, family members and Councillors.

Early in 2002 Michael Jones had been talking to Mr Mark Synnot, a farmer of Kojonup who was retiring. Mr Mark Synnot was a son of Mr

Mark Synnot senior who was a partner in Synnot and Dunbar well known shearing contractors who mainly serviced the North west of WA by transporting shearers and shed staff from his home at 11 Jarrad Street, Cottesloe. As the trucks were provisioned by Mrs Synnot for the months ahead at the stations in the North west. Mr Arthur Dunbar's premises at his home in Mt Lawley was the base of operations for the shearing runs which commenced in the Kimberley and proceeded south from there.

20 December 2006

Mr Mark Synnot
2 Fortview Road
MT CLAREMONT WA 6010

PROPOSED AGREEMENT REGARDING SYNNOT-DUNBAR SHEARERS TRUCK

It was the understanding of Cr Kevin Cahill that the following points were the basis of the loan of the truck to the Royal Agricultural Society:

1. It was your late father's and your wish that the truck was presented to the Royal Agricultural Society as a suitable location to house and put on show to the public this icon of previous shearing history.
2. It represents part of the history of your father's business that was located at 11 Jarrard Street Cottesloe where it was finally provisioned by Mrs Synnot for the trip ahead. Mr Arthur Dunbar's premises at his home in Mt Lawley was the base of operations for the Synnot and Dunbar shearing runs that covered WA, particularly the North West of the State as they commenced their run in the Kimberleys and proceeded south from there.
3. The majority of the shearers so imperative to this business either came from Perth or country areas and will have an opportunity to share the memories upon seeing it.
4. The RAS Council had expressed a wish not to refurbish the truck initially but conceded that if you wish to do so it is your right.
5. The RAS considers itself privileged to have been offered the opportunity to house and display this important relic of early shearing industry operations.
6. Mr Mark Synnot wishes to retain ownership and contribute towards the direction and preservation of the truck.
7. Mr Synnot has signed a letter of agreement with Revolutions Transport Heritage Centre of Whiteman Park. This will enable him and the Heritage Centre to make some repairs and retain the character of the truck.
8. Annually it is to be returned to the Showground to be displayed during the Show by arrangement with the Councillor-in-Charge of Sheep until such time as the Council of the RAS directs otherwise.
9. As Councillor-in-Charge of Sheep I am happy to liaise with Mr Synnot and I am sure my successor will do the same.

Kevin Cahill
Councillor-in-Charge
Sheep Committee

Mark Synnot

The majority of shearers came from Perth or inland country areas and the old timers will have a chance to share memoirs upon seeing it at the PRS. The truck, a 1934 Bedford duly arrived at the Showground in 2005

and was housed in the Jim Horwood Pavilion. It was light grey in colour and had many attachments to store gear and showed that it had had a tough life. The doubled sided seats that ran the length of the tray were missing and Cr Michael Jones told me he had seen them in a farm garden down Kojonup way but dared ask about it. I received the truck on behalf of the RAS as Sheep Section CIC and have included a copy of the letter that Mr Mark Synnot and I signed. The first showing was very well received and many an old shearer was thrilled to see it because of the memory it held. Cr Shirley Thorn's husband Mr Jim Thorn told us of his experiences as a young fella going north. Also did Mr Peter Leitch from the Shearing Committee. Mrs Val Hobson Secretary of the Murchison Pastoral and Shearing Museum Inc suggested that her members would be prepared to organise a display of shearing gear, photographs, and other equipment that shearers took on their trips north. She would also organise a roster system to man the display during the PRS and conduct a raffle. This was a welcome proposal that the Sheep Committee endorsed, and the elderly gentleman seemed to enjoy their day out and met old mates.



One of the Bedford Truck used by Shearing Teams of Synnot & Dunbar

After a number of years, it was agreed that the truck would go to Whiteman Park between PRS and return for the next PRS to be manned by Mrs Val Hobson and her Committee. Naturally this was agreed to by Mr Mark Synnot. It has now gone to Whiteman Park permanently. The truck could come back for the PRS for a show if the Sheep CIC requested it and Mr Mark Synnot and the RAS Council agreed.

The first Royal Show, a Fair and Cattle show was conducted at Woodbridge, Guildford on 7 November 1834. In 1890 at Woodbridge, it had become a 2 day show and was a landmark year for the Agricultural Society for in May, the Governor intimated that he had received a dispatch from the Colonial Secretary Lord Knutsford saying that the Queen had been pleased to grant permission to the Agricultural Society to assume the title of Royal. In 1893 the two-day attendance exceeded 5,000 patrons and the Royal Show was acclaimed the largest and best ever conducted under President Josceline George Herbert (George) Amherst who only served one term as President as per Constitution. Although Claremont Showground is one of the most spacious in Australia it is becoming a tight squeeze to fit within its vast enclosures the facilities that Exhibitors are constantly seeking. In 1970 a permanent RAS headquarters in the Rothmans building was established. In 1974 the PRS was held on a Sunday for the first time over 10 days and a new record attendance of 394,067 was achieved. A new Wool Pavilion was opened for the PRS in that year featuring a theatre capable of seating 300 people and the popularity of Sunday opening has continued to provide features and promotional items of merit and interest to the public. In 1902 the government granted the society a 14.1 Hectares (35-acre) site (later to be increased) in Claremont and a great new era began as the RAS transferred to the new headquarters. In 1981 to celebrate the RAS 150th anniversary Show her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited the PRS, at which the Queen's Cup was presented to the Western Australian Exhibitor who accumulated the highest number of points in one or more of seven key Sections: Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Horses, Breeding Goats, Trade Cattle and Wool. This was won by Kojonup farmer Mr Michael Jones of Westcourt stud with his Devon cattle. Mr Michael Jones became a Councillor in 1989

The shearing demonstrations were held throughout the Show week on the shearing platform and attracted fairly good daily numbers particularly from the children and the shearers interact with them to make it more interesting. Over the years there has been considerable trouble finding sheep to shear for this display. I have rung a considerable number of the farmers around the Northam area to see if they would help out, but most find it does not fit in with their normal farm program and are unable

to help. For a number of years Mr Ron Niven was able to get sheep from the Grange but when this fell through, we had them from the Cowcher family at Williams. A couple of years I could not obtain any and Mr Ron Niven bought some of his old ewes up from Manjimup, shored them and we held them over till Monday after the PRS show and he delivered them to Midland for sale. Mr Ron Niven and Mr Andy Burton did the demonstration shearing for about 15 years. Things have now changed and the S M B A and Mr Kevin Gellatly have organised the program. The shearing competition has been using sheep from the Sharman family at Dowerin who have been supplying the 600 or more sheep required for the main Shearing Competition since the 1970's. The Late Councillor Peter Dempster, shearing Councillor in charge had made it a point of going to Sharman's and Drafting the sheep each year prior to the show. Sharman's are now supplying the demo sheep as well as competition sheep which are brought down on the Friday Pre show and then the Sharman's make a special trip to pick up the demo sheep at the end of Show week. The sheep have always been carted to the Showground by Mr Lindsay Hagboom and his offsiders. The wool that is pressed during the Competition is delivered to Elders wool store the following week. This support from the Sharman family has been going on now for more than 50 years and I think needs some extra special recognition by the RAS. It is interesting to note here that both Mr Ron Joyce and Mr Kevin Gellatly have now been both entered into the Shearing Hall of Fame as recognition of their contributions to the WA Shearing industry respectively

In 2000 Mr Trevor Emery Manager Director of Farm Weekly asked me about creating a Class for young Merino rams and he would provide another Motorbike as a prize. I said that the Meat Sheep Exhibitors had asked me about a major prize for their Sections. What if we set up a Class the same as the Merino sheep with a pen of 3 rams under 1 ½ years. Mr Trevor Emery immediately jumped at the idea stating that no doubt it would be well received, and their numbers deserved the support. At the next Sheep Committee meeting I told them about the offer and the Committee were very pleased at the offer. This has keenly competed for each year.



On a major part of the \$28,000 sponsorship and prizes on offer at this year's Perth Royal Show-Farm Weekly Sheep Show are the two motorbikes provided by Farm Weekly and Causeway Honda, Victoria Park. Displaying the prizes on offer are RAS sheep section councillor-in-charge Kevin Cahill, Farm Weekly livestock manager Wendy Gould, and Causeway Honda principal Steve Ford.

\$28,000 in Show prizes

WINNING a broad ribbon at the Perth Royal Show is the ultimate goal for many breeders and with sponsorship and prizes valued at \$28,000 or offer in the sheep section this year, there has never been a greater incentive to compete.

Major sponsor *Farm Weekly*, in conjunction with Causeway Honda, Victoria Park, has provided two motorbikes as part of the overall prize package.

A Honda TRX250X four wheel bike will be awarded to the winner of the pen of three Merino or Poll Merino rams, 15-19 months, and a Honda XR200 Ag bike to the winner of the pen of three Poll Dorset rams under 1.5 years.

RAS councillor-in-charge of the sheep section, Kevin Cahill, encourages all breeders to forward their entries before next Friday's closing date of August 25.

"We welcome the increased sponsorship for the 2000 Perth Royal Show-Farm

Weekly Sheep Show and thanks to the support of *Farm Weekly* and Causeway Honda, we have two major prizes on offer that should attract a large number of entries," Mr Cahill said.

"With the steady improvement of wool prices and the continuing good markets for meat, the encouragement is there for an increase of exhibitors.

"The motorbikes offer a good incentive for breeders to participate and it's very pleasing to be able to offer an equivalent prize in the Poll Dorset competition to what has been or offer for the Merino judging," he said.

This year's show will be more convenient and productive for exhibitors, according to Mr Cahill.

The week has in effect been split in two, with Drysdale, Damara and Meat Merinos starting the week on Friday, September 25, followed by Corriedales and

Merinos (the lustre breed this year) judging on Saturday and Sunday.

The second half of the week commences two days later on the Wednesday with the judging of Pine lamb, Shropshire and Romney breeds.

Poll Dorset, Border Leicester, South Suffolk, Texel, Cheviot, Suffolk, Wiltshire Horn and White Suffolk are all judged on Thursday.

And in a first, the Merino and Poll Dorset judging will take place under shade cloth on the grass at the eastern end of the Jim Horwood pavilion, with a provision to go inside if the weather is inclement.

National junior judging for meat sheep and wool sheep is scheduled for Friday, October 6.

The week will be rounded off with the Australian and Irish Bred stud ram sale on Saturday, October 7, starting at 12 noon.

2nd Motor Bike prize from Farm Weekly in 2000

Unfortunately, when the Royal Agricultural society Advertising Department changed the sponsorship rules and demanded more dollars for advertising rights from Farm Weekly which even, I thought was over the fence the Farm Weekly withdrew their support. The Sheep Committee was disgusted with this approach taken by the Advertisement department meaning there was no major prize in the Sheep Section. The Sheep Committee directed that Cr Peter Lewis Gelmi CIC take the matter to the next Council Meeting who ultimately agreed to supply two prizes of \$4,000 each to replace the motorbikes. Ironically the Wagin Woolorama and Williams Expo both now get motorbikes for their events sponsored by the Farm Weekly.

When the Jim Horwood Pavilion was built outside the centre roller door on the eastern end of the Pavilion there is a grassed display area with seating on the south side. It would be approximately 30 metres (98.5 feet) x 30 metres (98.5 feet) and has been used for judging every year since 2002. This is covered with a shade cloth material which allows it to breath, but of course is not waterproof and consequently we have

been lucky at this point in time. In 2015 we have only had to bring the judging inside twice because of winds and drizzle. It became too wet and too mushy under foot to be pulling the animals around on. The shade cloth is attached high up on the east wall of the Jim Horwood Pavilion and has 2 centre polls in its length and the outer polls have ropes attached to 30-centimetre square (12 inches square) plates with the long pins driven into the lawn. These have now been replaced with substantial concrete blocks to hold the shade cloth roof down. There was a period of time when Asset Services allowed Reeces (an equipment hire company) to use the marquee cover providing they installed it for the PRS. This was not satisfactory as far as I was concerned because every year, we would be pushing to get it up early enough in the week for us to construct the pens, etc. underneath. These days work safe has come into the picture and these types of structures have to be erected by registered personnel and though Reece's no longer use the marquee we still have trouble getting it erected early enough in the week. Initially it was only used by the Merino Section but in more recent times, several other Breeds are making use of this lawn judging area. Consequently, in planning the penning those breeds are always penned on the inside eastern end of the Pavilion if possible.



Stud Merino Breeders' Association of WA

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13th October 2004

Mr Kevin Cahill OAM
Box 180
Merredin WA 6415

Dear Kevin,

RE: Perth Royal Show 2004

On behalf of the Stud Merino Breeders' Association of WA we sincerely thank you for the enormous effort you put in to making the Merino Sheep Show at this year's Royal Show a success.

We greatly appreciate the invaluable time you and your team put into the Show. The environment and atmosphere of co-operation in which the Show is run is a credit to you.

Regards,

PHILIP GOODING
President

Acknowledgement letter from the S M B A

The biggest catastrophe that could ever befall our PRS would be a fire and I shudder to think of the consequences. However, the RAS Council decided in 2009 to commence a major overhaul of the firefighting installations across the Showground. Being such a large and expensive commitment it was decided to spread the cost over 4 years and came into completion in 2013. We saw the installation of many more hydrants and some large water tanks to assist this Project. We only pray that this event never eventuated and at times I dread the thought when you see some of the characters that get around the Showground. About 2003 the Sheep Committee suggested that we organise a barbecue tea and hold the trophy presentation. This meant when the split Sheep Show was introduced, we would have a barbecue on Sunday night for the Exhibitors in the first half of the Sheep Show and then a barbecue on Thursday night at the conclusion of the judging for the week. After a year or two the Wool Committee joined the Sunday night barbecue to do their presentation. Generally, most Interstate and local judges were invited to the barbecue, and this was well received by them as it meant they could interact with the Exhibitors they had come up against earlier. The Eastern State judges welcomed this idea as it meant they could have a better rapport with the Exhibitors and believe that the PRS is the only one in Australia that offers this opportunity to the sheep people. This I believe is still the case.

The Eastern Group had been discussing the problem of getting judges each year for their shows, also the need to somehow train some new judges. I offered to conduct a judging school in Merredin and set about organising it. We used the Merredin Bowling facilities in Kitchner road for the school over the two days and also made use of the Domestic Science facilities at the High School. I was able to line up a range of tutors across a large number of Crafts, Cooking, Home crafts, Art, Fruit & Vegetables, Jams & Preserves, Needle work. In some cases we had tutors come from Perth whom we assisted with fuel costs. The High School Domestic Science teacher Mrs Heinrich had her class prepare several types of cakes that could be used for judging purposes by attendees and the students to make it as practical as possible. The group covered the cost of the ingredients, and we had afternoon tea into the bargain. There were 26 attendees with all Societies having someone in attendance, we provided morning and afternoon tea byway of the Bowling club Ladies. In Eastern from Bencubbin we were lucky to have an exceptionally talented lady in Mrs Judy Calderwood who has since passed away. Her Sewing, Craft Talents and needlework have to be seen to be appreciated, As a result of her enthusiasm it was decided to produce a Manual covering all aspects of Country Show showing and Judging.

I undertook to collate this and bring it into fruition. At that time The RAS was doing its own in house printing with their own Printing Machine and I asked the C E O Martin Maloney about doing the job for Eastern group, bearing in mind that these are available to any one across the state to maybe help with their shows. No-one in our Group came up with a name so it was left to me , I used "Things you might like to know " Complied by the Eastern Group of Agricultural Societies to assist persons interested in competing at shows to fine tune their Exhibits. It Copt some criticism, but too late now.

When the Carcass Competition was completed, the Abattoir would send one cheque to the RAS to cover the complete net purchase of all of the animals killed. It was then necessary from the kill sheets to cross check which carcasses belong to which Exhibitors, combine the dressed weights, and establish the amount of return they would receive for the lambs. This became my job as I was the only one with the information to cross check the Exhibitors lamb numbers to establish how much weight their lambs had achieved upon slaughter. Usually, it took several weeks to get each cheque from the RAS Accountant sent out to Exhibitors and at times due to the pressure of their work these payments were late which was not appreciated.

The Sheep Committee were concerned as to how we were going to keep the costs down and where would we get meat, etc. from. I said leave it to me and I will approach Mr Vince Garreffa at Mondo Di Carne to see if I could come to some arrangement with him. As Mr Vince Garreffa was buying the carcasses that were on display from the Prime Lamb Competition, which were a week old and had lost their freshness. We discussed a price and agreed, and he sent a cheque to RAS. After several years Mr Vince Garreffa suggested to me that we run a book by way of him buying the chilled carcasses from the fridge from us at a price we agreed on and he would supply chops, steak and sausages for our barbecues as ordered each year. No money changed hands as everything was priced and put down in the book. Either I would owe him some dollars, or I would have a credit towards the next year's PRS barbecues. This provides me with a kitty. I spoke to the Carcass Exhibitors about Mr Vince Garreffa not paying us for the lambs from the display fridge each year which meant the money credit would be used to provide payment for the meat for the barbecues on an ongoing basis calculated out over all prime lambs. It meant the Exhibitors were subsidising the barbecues at only a few dollars donation by them and they all agreed to support the RAS in this manner. I approached the YWCA who had a kitchen on the Showgrounds throughout the Show

week, as they provided three meals a day, which was always well received by the Exhibitors as they could have breakfast there from 7.00 am onwards to start the Show-day. The YWCA stated that they purchased their salad supplies, rolls, butter. etc., and kept everything in their portable freezer throughout the Show week. They would be happy to provide me our requirements for each barbecue and their account was submitted to the RAS as part of the Sheep Section running expenses. Plastic knives, forks, serviettes, plastic cups, and saucers, etc., were ordered through Property Services. Mrs Rewa Cahill or myself would pick up the frozen meat from Mr Vince Garreffa in Beaufort Street, Inglewood on the morning of the barbecue and take it to the Showground and put in our display case freezer where all other barbecue supplies were assembled prior to their use. We received many comments about the meat supplied and the overall barbecue from numerous people and everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion. Mr Ron Joyce and his staff volunteered to do the Barbecuing at one of the earliest Barbecues, and this practice has continued meaning a very long day for these workers, for which we sincerely thank them. They do an excellent job of barbecuing the meat and setting the whole affair up. I also organised the salads. However, when you think everything is going so smoothly somehow a spanner ends up in the works. This was when the Prime Lamb Competition was changed, and no carcasses came back to the Showground for display, so I budgeted barbecue costs higher to allow us to continue the program. Ironically when Mr Vince Garreffa and I sat down to square the books the last year he took the carcasses we finished up square and this ended a very good working relationship that he and I had had for many years. He first started paying for chiller carcasses in the mid-1990 s when I was appointed Sheep CIC. Cr Don Robinson from the previous Sheep Committee suggested I approach Mr Vince Garreffa about taking the carcasses and about 20 years later the arrangements ceased under my watch. The barbecues are now established as part of the Sheep Show and in the year the World Shearing Competition was held, I was asked to help out with a barbecue they wished to run. Now I was providing for a shearing barbecue as well as two sheep barbecues. The year the YWCA withdrew from the Showground I had a problem. However, I asked the RAS staff who looked after the booking of commercial exhibits particularly those in the Jim Webster Pavilion and Mrs Lois Andretich suggested Homestyle Salads of Munster maybe the people to approach as on their stand at the PRS they had plastic containers of salad mixes. I phoned them up and decided to drive down and have a look at what they could offer. Their Sales Consultant Mr Paul Borg referred me to the lady staff member who handled these products. I was staggered at the

range and selected what I thought would be best for us and organised that when they came to the PRS with their freezer van which was parked behind the Jim Webster Pavilion I could go to their stand and pick up what I had ordered for the days of the barbecue. This turned out to be a very good arrangement for several years and many commented on the range of salads available. Around 2012 I did not know that they had decided not to come to the PRS and of course they never let me know. On the Saturday prior to the barbecue that evening I went down to find their stand in the Jim Webster Pavilion to discover they were not there. The panic was on as to where would I get my supplies from in 4 hours. I gave Jan Garwell who worked in the Sheep Office doing the computing of results \$50.00 and asked her to go out and buy some bread in lieu of buns and I rang Rewa at home and asked her would she slip up to IGA near where we lived at Glen Forrest and get me some lettuce, salad tomatoes and cheese and bring it to the Showground so as we could make up our salads, etc. That was a big relief for me as at one stage I was not sure how I would get out of the mess. Later I met up with the RAS CEO Mr Martin Maloney and explained my predicament. He suggested I approach JD's who had many stands on the Showground with their main office being on the corner of Morrison Avenue and Robertson Avenue. Julianne and Duncan Brashaw are a very hard-working couple with 9 stands around the Showground. They have their freezers behind their stand in this area. As it turns out they could supply rolls and whatever salads, etc., in 2.5-kilogram (5.5 pound) buckets and provided I gave in my order a day or so prior to the event they could guarantee supply. We have been doing this for a number of years now and find it very satisfactory particularly as I can drive up in the golf cart to pick up supplies and place in our freezer in the Pavilion prior to the event. They invoice the RAS direct, and this is charged to the Sheep Section. On the afternoon of the barbeque, we are lucky because there is a Bottle Shop about 250 yards north of the Mofflin Gate (Gate 8) on Ashton Avenue. We take a trolley there to pick up our drinks and we put the cost on to a bankcard that is later reimbursed by the RAS. For the first few years we held the presentations on the grass underneath the marquee,. but it always seemed to come in bitterly cold, so a decision was made to move into the Pavilion and conduct the event adjacent to the shearing platform, this has proved to be welcomed by all concerned.



Jim Horwood Pavilion

On the last Friday afternoon of the Sheep Show an auction is held by Elders and Wesfarmers stock firms for the Australian and British breeds whose exhibitors must have shown animals at the PRS. By now all Exhibitors are anxious to pack up and head home. Consideration is given to the one or two Exhibitors who wish to leave early on the Saturday. I mean people from Geraldton way or Esperance.

In recent years to be fair to everyone we draw up a map showing the radii of various Exhibitors from the Showground and delegate a time at which they can leave on the Saturday afternoon. This is fair to everyone and appears to be working quite well. Each Exhibitor needs to pick up an Exit Pass from the Sheep Office showing their name, vehicle registration number and number of animals so as to be allowed out at the Exit gate. Exhibitors must have given a Livestock Waybill upon arrival to get a pass out. It is good to see that if someone is sent back, which rarely happens, it means the security is good.

In 2011 President Tony Devitt had appointed Cr Hugh Robert Harding as CIC of the Sheep Committee and I was there as his assistant and naturally it was my job to show him the ropes as to how the Sheep Section operated. Cr Hugh Harding was known to many of the Exhibitors through his work as a Stock Agent over many years and this was to his advantage. I introduced him to the Pavilion staff, and it was obvious that they would work well together as I stated the role that they played. I showed him the method that I had used to establish the Exhibitors location in the penning. It was logical that the Breeds showing and being judged outside under the marquee be allocated pens nearest to the eastern door either side of the main alleyway and next allocate the larger Exhibitors across the pens as many of the small ones will slot into the gaps created. The various Breeds were allocated in a

block, and I usually rotated them around each year as much as possible to let everyone be closer to the judging ring in the rotation. Unfortunately, for Cr Hugh Harding on the Wednesday before Exhibitors arrived on Friday, I was taken off to hospital the night before arrivals. However, Cr Hugh Harding's wife Mrs Lorraine Harding came down and gave him a hand and they assured me things worked out okay. I was back a few days later and we finished up having a good Sheep Show. At this point in time Cr Hugh Harding was nominated and elected RAS Vice President and this meant the following year the Ras Council appointed Cr Peter Gelmi CIC of the Sheep Section. So once again I helped show Cr Peter Gelmi how I went about running the Pavilion. He had a big advantage in that he could computerise the pen layout for the Breeds and allocate Exhibitors pen allocations in different colours and this made it easier to follow. It was necessary to produce pen allocations for the first part of the show from Friday on and then on Tuesday it would be a completely different set of allocation for the remaining Breeds, and due to numbers, this was always a tight squeeze. I found it was necessary to always have the appointed Show veterinarian's phone number in the Sheep Office so as to be able to contact him/ her direct because every Sheep Show there seems to be a need for some help. Mainly for scouring due invariably to a change of water, however naturally there were other problems. The current Show veterinarian Mr Peter Arnold was a very practical man who had large animal experience and was well respected by everyone. With over 600 animals in the second half of the Sheep Show, you naturally had to expect that there could be a problem of some sort.

In later years my main role has been to set the Sheep Office up for Cr Peter Gelmi because due to his workload he cannot arrive until the day before the PRS starts. What I do means that everything is in place for the penning of animals on Friday and the pressure is off for the commencement of judging on the Saturday morning.

Cr Michael Jones had been involved with the Royal Agricultural Societies of the Commonwealth (RASC) by attending several of their Bi Annual Conferences in different parts of the world. He had been well received by its Board so much so that they invited him to participate as a Commonwealth Board member and twice a year he used to fly to London to attend the RASC meetings. The RASC held a Conference in WA for the first time in 1979 at which his Royal Highness, Prince Philip President of the RASC opened and presided over the Conference. Cr Michael Jones had been asking some of the RAS Counsellors to attend. Rewa and I had not been overseas since New Zealand in 1977 for a

world gathering of the International Farm Youth Exchange (I F Y E) as it was 20 years since I had had my 6-month Exchange to America. It was a late January visit which according to all the research done by the organisers was supposed to have been an excellent weather period for the Conference at Christchurch. When we arrived, it was absolutely freezing and the family we stayed with for the first couple of nights had to turn the house heaters on for us to get warm. We went into the Christchurch University to stay during the reunion, and it rained every day for the week. The sun shone as we walked out to the aircraft to fly home. Rewa and I had an opportunity to go to Canada with the Kondinin Farm Group of which I was a member in 2004 and whilst there I took the opportunity to visit America and the States of Colorado and Illinois where I had lived and worked for families on my six months Exchange. To my pleasure I was able to catch up with some of the grown up children whose parents I lived with and this was a great pleasure to me.

Following Cr Michael Jones's suggestion, we join him for an RASC Conference (Theme: Market Expectations for Food and Farming Realities) being held in Calgary, Canada. In 2006 Rewa and I and Mr Greg and Mrs Ann Lockyer from Tambellup who were friends of Cr Michael Jones, the 4 of us travelled together to Canada while Cr Michael Jones left on his own a few days earlier to visit Honolulu on the way. We checked into the RASC Conference Hotel and headed to our rooms. Rewa and I had a walk through a bar where 4 or 5 people were socialising to get to our room. As we walked past several people who said hello Michael. They must have thought I was stuck up as I did not say anything. We left our room to go to dinner. I stopped and apologised to them and explained. Later on, we came across another lady who addressed me as Michael and I told her I was not, which was a bit of a shock to her. This couple were from New South Wales, Mr Philip Bruem and Mrs Celia Bruem who were good friends of Cr Michael Jones. Mrs Celia Bruem also called me Michael on many, many occasions and we became good friends with the Bruem's and looked forward to seeing them at future RASC Conferences. Mr Philip Bruem held a senior position with the dairy industry in NSW and also the Sydney Royal Agricultural Society. We enjoyed seeing them in future years. We went down to breakfast the next morning and a lady came up and kissed me and said how lovely it is to see you Michael and looked sideways at Rewa they had never seen Cr Michael Jones with a woman. She had caught me off guard. Rewa said sorry but this is not Michael as he is still in Honolulu and would not be here until later tonight. Throughout the RASC Conference every day we were being mixed up,

so I took a pencil and on the back of my name card I wrote I am not Michael and on the back of Michael's name card I wrote I am not Kevin so when we went to a welcoming social event that evening, we turned the cards around to show who we were not, which caused quite a bit of amusement. There is a lady from NSW Mrs Rose Duncan who at the Singapore Conference in 2016 was still asking was I Michael or Kevin when she spoke to me.

The Canadian Conference was held in Calgary, famous worldwide for the Calgary Stampede which we witnessed one evening as guests of the Trotting Association at the magnificent racing facilities which also has a Casino and Cr Michael Jones was game enough to pay the Casino a visit. We enjoyed our visit to the country properties and at one cattle ranch, they had just installed a gas making facility using their own animal manure to power electricity generation for their needs. We went to an evening reception and were able to meet up with some Canadian Mounties who were resplendent in their brightly coloured uniform. At the Conference one morning the Chairperson of the day Right Honourable Lord Sam Vestey had just received a cable from RAS President Ivan Solomon to say that the RAS had awarded Cr Margaret Bannister, Cr Michael Jones, and myself Honorary Life Membership of the RAS for the contribution we had made over the previous years through the Sections that we had been CIC of. This was a complete surprise to the 3 of us but I guess we were out of the country and the RAS Council had a chance to talk about us in our absence and gave the 3 of us immense satisfaction for the recognition they had given us. At this Conference a group called the Next Generation was formed which consists of young men and women from Agricultural Societies across the world who have dedicated themselves to helping struggling groups in their various countries. A fellow called Mr John Bennett from the Sydney Royal Agricultural Society in NSW was elected as President of the Next Generation to look after this group. The Next Generation people have taken on projects like building schools or helping with small irrigation projects in underprivileged communities and at future RASC Conferences we have heard a representative from these groups tell the Conference delegates what this is meant to the livelihood of the communities. At this conference Prince Philip who has been Chairperson of the RASC since its formation tendered his resignation and Princess Anne has taken over from him as RASC Chairperson and was present at this Conference. We have seen her at all of the Conferences. Princess Anne was accompanied by the Right Honourable Lord Sam Vestey who was in charge of the Queen's Horse Guards. Lord Sam Vestey is from the Vestey family who had extensive

investments in the cattle industry and Abators in the northern Australia and lived here for some time in fact his mother still lives in Melbourne, and he usually sees her most years. The Vestey group pulled out of Australia in earlier times. He is a most friendly and down to earth person who when you are introduced to him immediately says call me Sam. He was a good friend of Cr Michael Jones and the two of us spent some time with him. To take the identification mishap a step further, one morning I was sitting in the dining room having breakfast when in walked Lord Sam Vestey and said good morning, Michael and proceeded to pick up his eats and sat on the table next to me. A moment or two later in walked Cr Michael Jones and Lord Sam Vestey looked at me and apologised. I said Sam do not let that worry you Michael and I are quite used to it by now.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Mr Kevin Cahill
PO Box 180
MERREDIN WA 6415

Dear Kevin

At the recent Council Meeting held on the 26th July 2006 you were awarded the distinction of Honorary Life Member of the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia.

This award was made in recognition of your many years of dedicated service and valuable contribution to many areas of the Royal Agricultural Society.

Your contribution has been outstanding and this was recognised by a number of Councillors at the meeting.

May I offer my personal congratulations and also on behalf of the Society.

I look forward to meeting you again in the near future and presenting you with your Honorary Life Membership badge.

Yours sincerely

I. F. Solomon

IVAN SOLOMON
President

2 August 2006

Perth Royal Show  Perth Royal Wine Show  Showgrounds Exhibition Centre 
G:\corporate\Manager\President\2006\Honorary Life Members.doc

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC.) ABN 91 661 481 302 Founded 1831 Incorporated 1904
Royal Showgrounds Claremont, PO Box 135 Claremont, Western Australia 6910 Telephone 08 6263 3100 Facsimile 08 6263 3171 Email info@raswa.org.au Web www.raswa.org.au

In early 2006 Rewa and I had taken a trip with the Kondinin Farm Group to Europe and England and observed the way they farmed and looked after their livestock. We get things so good here with our weather that it

really makes you appreciate the conditions under which we operate. Sure it gets hot and cold but nothing, nothing like having to operate in those conditions over there particularly where livestock are concerned.

In 2008 another RASC Conference (Theme: Challenges of Change) this time in New Zealand and Cr Margaret Bannister and Cr Bill Trend attended with us along with Miss Renae Manning from Merredin and Mr Brendan Simpson from Quairading who were RAS Rural Ambassador winners that year. New Zealand does not have a Royal Agricultural Show however Christchurch has a very big show, and some consider this to be the Royal of New Zealand. Incidentally we had excellent weather during this trip. I forgot to mention previously that at each RASC Conference you can elect to take a pre-Conference tour or a post-Conference tour. Rewa and I chose the latter Conference tour. The latter being the most popular and there are no time restrictions on you. This gives you a chance to see a lot more of the country that you are in. During the RASC Conference everyone went by bus to stay with host families overnight out in the country. This was one of the most highly organised events that I have ever been involved in

There were about 160 people who were divided up by different coloured cards into specific buses for each road and direction you are travelling to and as we drove along, we could witness the hosts in their cars driving down the side roads to meet us as we embarked, a truly well-organised event with military precision, and the same precision applied to our return. We were at a large Southdown Stud and twice a day the shepherd did a walk through the small paddocks with the lambing ewes carrying a plastic bucket, scales, and ear tags so that every lamb was weighted and tagged. The parents were recorded before they were a day-old and in most cases the progeny could be traced back. We stayed in an old English styled manner belonging to the Alford family but no relation to the Alford family of Merredin that we knew. When we went in for the evening meal Mr Alford was sitting at the head of the table with a big turkey in front of him ready to carve, reminiscent of what you see in English movies and a most enjoyable meal. What upset me most was the water everywhere as they did not have troughs in the paddock for livestock, they had 1 metre (3.3 feet) wide drains along the fence line that continued on for some distance through all the paddocks as water is in abundance coming from melting snow some kilometres miles away in the mountains and finishes up in the Brook. To nag me further just outside our bedroom window was a flowing brook that babbles all night. Boy was I jealous.

In 2010 the RASC Conference (Theme: Co-operation and Collaboration) was held in Scotland so Rewa and I took the opportunity to take a scenic cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam down the Rhine River preconference. We then flew to Glasgow and joined up with RAS Cr Margaret Bannister, Cr Lyn Piper, Cr Michael Jones, and Cr Bill Trend for an enjoyable Conference. Again Rewa, Michael Jones and I took the opportunity to visit the Isle of Skye after the Conference and I was silly enough to leave a pair of brown trousers hanging in the wardrobe but to make matters worse when we got back to Glasgow, I left my newest camera in a tourist bus and no matter how I tried I was unable to trace it down. To add insult to injury the bag contained several camera chips that were full of photos, were also gone.

We did not go in 2012 because the Conference (Theme: Feeding the Hungary) was in South Africa however Michael Jones went and caught up with the many friends that we had previously made. It was Australia's turn in 2014 and the RASC Conference (Theme: Sustainability of Tomorrow's Agricultural Shows) was held in Brisbane and Rewa, Michael Jones and I were joined by RAS CEO Mr Peter Cooper who presented a paper. It was not quite the same as an overseas RASC Conference however the opportunity to see around Queensland and see what farmers do agriculturally was very interesting. It was good to catch up with Lord Sam Vestey and Mr Philip Bruem and Mrs Celia Bruem again.

Finally in 2016 the Conference (Theme: Agriculture at the Crossroads: Bridging the Rural Urban-Divide) was in Singapore and Rewa and I and Cr Michael Jones were joined by the RAS President Rob Wilson and his wife Lola and RAS CEO Mr Peter Cooper. To us all Singapore was a real eye-opener as to its cleanliness and hustle and bustle and obviously a place on the move.

The attendance at these Agricultural Societies of the Commonwealth Conferences had given us an opportunity to experience another dimension of what was available from being a member of the WA, RAS and to me highlighted the fact that Agricultural Societies on the world scene play a very big part in assisting communities to share their experiences and offer the knowledge of their endeavours to improve the lot for mankind. I have never regretted my commitment over the years however neither did I ever dream that I'd become so involved, share so many wonderful experiences in my 60 odd years since I joined the Merredin Agricultural Society in 1950.

In 2011 my 4-year term as a RAS Councillor expired and I was due for re-election. I nominated again to continue, and as was the order of the day for all Council elections the nominees were to be interviewed by a

Nomination Committee that had been set up specially to interview intending Nominees and look at their qualifications and ambitions.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



26 May 2011

Kevin Cahill OAM
6 Daleview Close
GLEN FORREST WA 6071

Dear Kevin

On behalf of the Council and Staff of The Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia I congratulate you on your wonderful service to the Society for over 28 years as a member of Council.

Your record of service is remarkable not only because of the length of time involved, but also for the range of Sections in which you were Councillor in Charge, and the other areas where you made a major contribution. It was interesting to note that many of the activities you were involved in like Trade Pigs, Farm Day, Sheaf Tossing etc. do not exist today; perhaps a sign of the times and in some cases activities sorely missed.

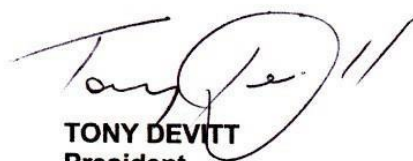
The significant contribution you made to The RAS resulting in you being awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Society in 2006 is testament to the respect the Society has for you.

I found your farewell speech at Council most illuminating as you mentioned many things that a relatively new Councillor like me was unaware of. It would be wonderful if you were able to record your experiences and stories as it would provide a great historical record of the time.

I look forward to seeing you and Rewa regularly on the Showground as your experience is invaluable and many of our newer Councillors will benefit from sharing time with you both.

Best wishes to you and Rewa for the future.

Yours sincerely


TONY DEVITT
President

I was asked my intentions and stated that if elected I probably would not serve the full term as in 2013, I would have been a RAS Councillor for 30 years and going on 80 years of age. This was thought by some of the Nomination Committee to be only causing the work and cost of an extraordinary election and it was suggested that I did not consider nominating for a further term. It was stated that I had achieved a considerable amount over my 28 years and already had an Honorary Life Membership and no doubt would become an Honorary Councillor. They had received a Nomination from several younger people that had nominated whom they would like to see elected as a Councillor. I was a little taken back and agreed to give it due consideration and would let them know. After a few days I made up my mind that I would not seek another term and told Rewa of my decision and tendered my resignation at the next RAS Council meeting. I would be lying if I said I was not going to miss this commitment but in fact it took a fair amount of convincing it was the decision to make. As an Honorary Councillor I would ask to work on the Committees of Agricultural Colleges and Farm Skills Competition.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



18 March 2013

Mr Kevin Cahill OAM
6 Daleview Close
GLEN FORREST WA 6071

Dear Kevin

On behalf of the Council of The Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia it gives me great pleasure to advise that at the Council meeting held on 27 February 2013 you were awarded Honorary Councillor of The RAS of WA.

This is a testament of your dedication and outstanding contribution as a member of Council for over 28 years. You will now receive all the benefits of an Honorary Councillor.

We would be delighted if you and Rewa could join Council for lunch on Wednesday 24 April 2013 at 1.00 pm in the Councillors Lounge. Please advise Janice Davidson on 6263 3168 if this date is suitable.

Congratulations Kevin and thank you once again. Best wishes for the future and I look forward to seeing you and Rewa soon at a Council lunch and then also during the IGA Perth Royal Show.

Yours sincerely

HUGH HARDING
President

Sheep and District displays where I had been involved since 1970 and have not missed a PRS since then. It is difficult to define how this

passage has been accomplished but since attending the first Merredin Agricultural Show in 1950 as a 16-year-old delegate from the Merredin Junior Farmers I had served a term as Vice President, then President also Secretary and became involved with the Eastern Group of Agricultural Societies in the 1960's serving a term as President and two terms as Secretary covering 17 years, District Display involvement since 1970 and was Chairperson of the first Eastern Display organised by the Quairading Agricultural Society in 1970, and designer secretary of two Merredin Agricultural Society District Displays, Maintained a group Judges list for 12 years as Secretary then convened a Group Learner Judges school in Merredin in the 80's for 26 attendee's over two days, and finally brought to fruition the Eastern Group District Display Photo Album in 2018. I resigned from the Group in November 2021 after 55 years, having already resigned from Merredin in 2011 after 61 years upon shifting to Glen Forrest. This was rounded out with 28 years as an RAS Councillor till 20011. When the 2020 Royal show was cancelled, it was to have been my 50th consecutive show, so 2021 saw a brief appearance as I only came out of hospital the Saturday the show started. How many more do I have ????.I have rounded out with 28 years as an RAS Councillor But have still helped with farm Skills and Sheep these last few years.

My life has been a challenge of being reasonably successful whatever I attempted to do and a special thank you to my wife Rewa who has been beside me for much of this journey and my boys Grant, Peter, Mark, and Dean Cahill who had to put up with my absence and my brother Dennis Cahill who told me in 1982 to continue with the Agricultural Society movement because I had put so much time to it over the years already.

To try to thank those people who I have worked with and who helped me to achieve what has eventuated over the years would have been impossible. To have achieved what I have and gone where I've been would not have been possible without the support and guidance I have received over the years by everyone.

Finally, a quote that sometimes would be applicable to circumstances at the RAS but could be anywhere:

This is a story about 4 people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.
 Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that
 Everybody would not do it.
 It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody
 asked Anybody.
 The RAS rolls on year after year because Somebody does something.

2010 Members of Council



Front row: Jim Webster, Kevin Cahill, Shirley Thorn, John Snowball, Trevor Hoddy, Tony Devitt, Hugh Harding, Lyn Piper, Margaret Bannister, Lou Giglia, John O'Meehan

Back Row: Don Chipper, Ken Walker, Ross Rainbird, Rob Wilson, Robert Pearce, Bill Scott, Paul Carter, Bill Trend, Dudley Preston, Mark Connelly, Kingsley Preston, John Watson, Herb Harkins, Robert Hawes, David Button

Absent: Dexter Davies, Leon Giglia

RAS people I have worked with:

Presidents

Thomas Duncan (Tom) Wilding	1981 to 1983	
Peter Thomas Carter	1984 to 1986	AM / JP
Arthur James (Jim) Webster	1987 to 1989	OAM
James Kentish (Jim) Horwood	1990 to 1992	AM / BE
John Henry Wilding	1993 to 1995	
John Francis O'Meehan	1996 to 1998	JP
Luigi Alexander (Lou) Giglia	1999 to 2001	
Donald Euan (Don) Robertson	2002 to 2004	

Ivan Frederick Solomon	2005 to 2007	
Anthony Colin (Tony) Devitt	2008 to 2010	
Hugh Robert Harding	2011 to 2013	
Robert Houston Wilson	2014 to 2016	Dr / AM
Paul Lewin Carter	2017 to 2019	OAM
David Arthur Thomas	2020 to 2022	

CEO/ Director / Executive Officer Administration Officer

Ian William Steele	1983 to 1987
Bruce Alan Wynn	1988 to 1998
Bruce George Wallis	Admin Officer (1993 to 2000 (Lieu Col ex SAS)
Liz Holland Clark	Admin Officer 2000 to 2004
Desmond Mitting	1999 to 2000
Simon Lyas	2000 to 2001
Martin Thomas Molony	2001 till 2006
Bruce Rathbone	2002 to 2005
Martin Thomas Malony	2006 to 2014
Peter Cooper	2014 to 2021

Treasurers

William Alfred Burgess	1975 to 1984
David Buttfield	1984 to 1994
Ross Stanley Bourne	1995 to 2001
David Charles White	2001 to 2005
Stephen Russell Lee	2005 to 2010
Trevor Graeme Hoddy	2010 to 2014
Dudley James Elliott	2014 to current

Property/ Asset Services Manager

Len Kernigan	Jeanette Shirley	Garry Shirley
Brian Higgins		
Laurel Franklin	Gerri Short	

Staff

Gordon (Stumpy) Gray	Craig Donnelly, Painter	John Wood,
Capenter	Stuart Willerton	

Section Secretaries

Natalie Raynor	Shelley Turner	Pamela Smart
Robin Bartlett		
Agnes Beard	Cheryl McMillan	Wendy Cook
Kay Fuller		
Pam Raven	Dorothy Valens	Karin Hawkins
Caroll Wallace		
Donna Spencer	Dawn Cook	

Finally in early 2004 I picked up the Western Australian to discover that I had been awarded a O. A. M. In the Queen's birthday honours list. This was a complete surprise to me as I had never in my wildest dreams thought of my Peers recognising me in this way. everything that I have ever done came about because of the challenge that lay ahead, knowing that to complete the task. would please everyone concerned and give me great satisfaction. I received. dozens of congratulatory messages from friends and associates from across the many walks of life I had travelled over in my lifetime, and I really appreciated this contact. In April Rewa, Dean ,Noreen and I attended at Government house along with the other awardee's to be awarded the Medal. As it happened I had met the Governor His Excellency Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC at many Royal show Functions and he commented on this. There were 54 presentations awarded that day. Legally I am now entitled to sign my name recognising this award.

In 2008 the 1st edition of Who's Who in WA was published and I was asked to contribute a Biography to this edition which is a very short summary of the Agricultural Society years and my positions that were held.

