

ISSUE 43
DECEMBER 2023

THE

SOCIETY

A photograph of an elderly man with white hair, wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and a blue and yellow striped tie. He is holding a large, golden-brown rooster with a prominent red comb. The man has a serious expression and is looking directly at the camera. A small green and white badge is pinned to his lapel. The background is a solid dark blue.

Heart of the Show

COMPETITIONS UNDERPIN
SUCCESS OF 2023

2024 ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW - SATURDAY, AUGUST 31 TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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THE SOCIETY

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The Society is published by the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia
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Cover: Ron Wright, Honorary Councilor, member of the Poultry and Pigeon Committee
from 1996 to 2013. Picture: John Kruger.



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High Taste

Taste of the Best
a feast for
the senses



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL &
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED



Adelaide
Showground



ROYAL
ADELAIDE
SHOW



Adelaide Showground
Caravan Park



royal
adelaide
wine
show



ROYAL ADELAIDE
BEER & CIDER
AWARDS 1844



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN
SPIRIT
AWARDS



RURAL
SERVICES



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We care a lot

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home for SACARE
at the Show



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*Competition
hits new heights
for 2023*



“

We saw families staying longer at the Show and making the most of the fantastic entertainment and free activities on offer.

”

FROM THE *President*



The 2023 Royal Adelaide Show is now behind us and what a brilliant event it was. Even with the current cost of living crisis, we saw families staying longer at the Show and making the most of the fantastic entertainment and free activities on offer.

From global superstar Bluey and her encore performance on Friday to the brand-new Aggie's Farm activation in the Stirling Angas Hall, the buzz was palpable.

Our competitive sections at the Show also had another successful year, with strong entry numbers across the board. Almost half the sections saw a notable growth in entries. This included dairy cattle, cookery, dogs, junior technology, horses, dairy products, and farriers and blacksmiths. Other sections even set records, like led steers.

Also a triumph this year was the Royal Adelaide Wine and Spirits Awards. For the first time ever, the public got to sample the top drops along with cheese, chocolate, and ice-cream from the SA Dairy Awards and other winning Show produce at the Taste of the Best event in October.

Finally, on behalf of the board, I wish to extend my thanks to all RA&HS staff, councillors, volunteers, and members for another wonderful year.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!

Andrew Hardy
President, RA&HS SA Inc



Greeting from the RA&HS Archives and Show Museum!

This year, I went into the Royal Adelaide Show with the benefit of having the 2022 Show under my belt. So, I felt prepared and excited for what lay ahead, and this year's Show did not disappoint.

We had lots of people through the museum doors, most of them for the first time. I got to meet and speak with hundreds of people every day, from enthusiastic Showgoers showing their kids the showbags and rides they went on as children, to Society councillors,

members, exhibitors, and competitors.

I love these conversations because I get to learn a lot about the history of the Show and the personal and deep connections people have towards it.

The 2023 Show was a successful one for the RA&HS Archives and Show Museum and it wouldn't have been so without the fantastic volunteers that assisted visitors with all manner of enquiries – both historical and practical. Many of the volunteers were returning to the museum and it was great to see them again.

Erin Reardon



Siblings Jean, Richard and Elizabeth with the donated photo of their father, Tom Morris, riding Teetotaler at the 1923 Royal Adelaide Show.

The Morris family donation

In late August, I was contacted by Elizabeth Morris. Elizabeth's family had a framed photograph of their father, Tom Morris, riding a horse named Teetotaler at the 1923 Royal Adelaide Show, seeing if we were interested in it.

Not only was this a beautiful photo, but Teetotaler was a horse of some note, winning the Boswell Challenge Cup for jumping at the Adelaide Show three times – in 1923 at the Jubilee Oval, the inaugural event held at Wayville in 1925, and again in 1930.

Tom Morris rode Teetotaler to victory in the 1923 event, where this photo was taken, meaning the photo was celebrating its centenary almost to the day it was delivered to the archives.

Given my profession, I am naturally inclined to enjoy these historical items, but it is the human connection these items represent that is important. So, I encouraged Elizabeth to invite her siblings to the Archives to deliver the framed photograph.

Richard and Jean accompanied Elizabeth – Richard having had the photo in his possession for

many years before passing it onto Jean to hang in her home.

While showing Elizabeth, Richard and Jean around the museum and archives, they told me a story about their older brother, John, who, as a child, spent time in hospital with polio.

Subsequently, they sent me an article from *The Advertiser*, dated Tuesday, September 9, 1947. It read:

"Two of the happiest youngsters at the Show were 9-year-old John Morris, of Mile End, and 11-year-old Robert Pearce, of Mount Gambier, who are infantile paralysis patients at

the Children's Hospital. Both have been at the hospital for 20 months. Two girl physiotherapists – Misses Diana Dow and Annetta Wylde – pushed the children on barouches the three miles from the hospital to the Showgrounds to give them a day they will long remember."

This story and the framed photograph symbolise the place the Show has in the hearts of the Morris family, and we are grateful they have entrusted the RA&HS Archives to protect and preserve the photograph for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

If you have items you would like to donate to the RA&HS Archives, please contact me at history@adelaideshowground.com.au with information about the items in question and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible financial contribution to the RA&HS Archives to help us preserve our longstanding history, go to the Show Museum website at www.rahshistory.com.au, click on the 'Donate' tab, and choose 'Archives Foundation Donation'.

We have continued adding historical catalogues and results to the Show Museum website. So, if you would like to have a look at our history or use the website to look up your own family history, please visit www.rahshistory.com.au

Profile Q&A: Claire Bloor

Museum Assistant

Claire has been helping in the RA&HS Archives since April and her experience and knowledge has been a great asset in helping to arrange our varied collection.

Hi, Claire. Where did your interest in museums and archives begin and what is the most interesting aspect of working in the RA&HS Archives?

I have always loved stories, which is what originally drew me to become a high school English and history teacher.

Eventually, I began to think that working as an education officer in a museum looked like a pretty fun job, with all the excitement of having the different objects to tell stories around you every day.

After volunteering at a historical society in Perth, the former president there suggested I look into becoming a museum curator, which has led me since to both working and volunteering in a few different places – including the RA&HS Archives.

The most interesting thing about working at the RA&HS Archives is getting to research and handle all the various objects that aren't always on display.

What other museum/archives institutions have you worked in?

I have previously volunteered and worked as an independent contractor for the Western Australian Museum, and I have also volunteered with the Swan Guildford Historical Society in Western Australia.

As well as working in the RA&HS Archives and Museum, I am a registrar with the History Trust of South Australia and the librarian archivist at Christ Church North Adelaide.



SHOW ON A *ROLL*



This year marked another fantastic, happy, and safe event for the Royal Adelaide Show.

While attendance numbers were below the five-year average of 450,000, people stayed longer and made the most of the free activities.

RA&HS chief executive Will Rayner said a highlight was the brand-new Aggie's Farm – a free activity, taking children on a journey through a miniature farm and teaching them about agriculture and fresh produce.

"The concept was at least 18 months in the planning and was modelled on similar 'farms' at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and Brisbane's Ekka.

"About 120,000 people enjoyed the 'activation' across the nine days, with young families in strong attendance."

Guests prolonged their time at the farm, care of a dedicated craft zone, coffee cart, seating, and a meet-and-greet area.

Special guests, like *Gardening Australia's* Costa Georgiadis, regularly dropped in. There were also daily visits by handlers with puppies and pythons (not at the same time!), bee talks, and more.

Meanwhile, in live entertainment, the *Bluey* children's show was extended due to high demand.

"After day two of *Bluey's Live Interactive Experience* and pram gridlock throughout Goyder Pavillion, we knew that *Bluey* was more popular than we could have ever expected," Will said.

"We worked quickly behind the scenes to secure the act for an extra two performances on the Friday. Truly, it was a fantastic way to show our commitment to family value for money at the Show."

Meanwhile, the competition component of the Show was highly successful again, with numbers across the board on par with last year.

Significant work was undertaken behind the scenes in the lead-up to streamline such things as electronic judging and livestock move-outs.

During the Show, Will said it was also great to see increased participation in the junior competitive sections.

"Entries were boosted for beef 'young judges', the dairy cattle junior show, the alpaca junior handlers, and in junior technology, art and craft, and cookery.

"We were also thrilled to have the South Australian governor, Her Excellency Frances Adamson, and her husband, Rod Bunten, so involved with the Show again this year.

"This included Mr Bunten's sponsorship of the clotted cream classes, and their combined efforts in judging the Professional Baking and Scarecrow competitions.

"The winning scarecrow, picked by Her Excellency herself, will now guard the lawns at Government House for the next 12 months."

As well, Will thanked all the volunteers, staff, and stewards for their hard work and dedication, ensuring another resounding success for the Show.



BY THE NUMBERS

Orange juices consumed:

13,559

Cheese toasties made:

12,279

Milkshakes made:

9,043

Litres of milk collected in the tin dairy:

23,520

Scones made by the CWA:

12,644

Aggie's Farm visitors:

120,000



LEARNING CENTRE *all abuzz*

The Learning Centre had its busiest year yet at the 2023 Royal Adelaide Show.

Centre coordinator Larissa Tallent, who is also a teacher at Urrbrae Agricultural High School, estimated they had about 200,000 visitors through its doors during the Show.

"We're definitely getting busier and busier. This year seemed to be consistently busy all day," she said.

Always a family favourite, the centre offers a range of free, daily, hands-on activities and demonstrations, inviting people to learn about agriculture and the paddock-to-plate concept.

It's supported by Urrbrae Agricultural High School, the Department for Education, and the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA (RA&HS).

About 200 students and 30 staff from Urrbrae were involved in coordinating the activities throughout the Show.

A big hit was the new, working beehive. Presenter Ian Wilson and hobbyist beekeeper Nathaniel Wigzell did live performances from within the Perspex structure.

"It was very popular; the presentations were packed," Larissa said. "Something the audience just loved was seeing Ian and Nathaniel emerge through the

door in their bee suits, looking like space people with all these bees flying around them.

"A couple of times they took a frame out of the hive, covered in bees, and you could see the queen bee as well. She was marked with a dot. So, they'd hold the frame up against the window and everyone would rush to try to see her."

Larissa said with "a few modifications" the beehive, dubbed a "Taj Mahal" for bees, would definitely be back in action next year.

Also more popular than ever at the centre were the food workshops for four to 12-year-olds. At these, kids could make smoothies, granola, and popcorn with the support of Urrbrae's child studies students.

About 5000 children participated in the workshops, compared to 3700 last year. "The word's getting around and it's only the third year we've run them," Larissa said.

Another feature of the centre is the opportunity for people to interact with animals. This year, it had on show 12 lambs, eight baby goats, five beef cattle, two dairy cattle and two dairy calves, eight piglets, two buffalo calves, four chocolate Border Collie puppies (which found homes during the Show),

100 chickens, eight hens, and 20 yabbies.

The chance to pat piglets was again in high demand. To cater for this, the centre increased its piglet pens from one to three this year, which was very successful.

"We also had Valais Blacknose lambs," Larissa said. "They're like a designer pet sheep from Switzerland, and they're basically used as lawnmowers and grazers. They're an alternative type of pet to have in your backyard or on a hobby farm. They're not cheap, but they're very cute. The public loved them."

As for the students, Larissa said being involved at the centre helped to boost their "confidence and leadership skills".

"That's a big highlight, along with being surrounded by all the cute baby animals. And so many of the students said to me afterwards that they really enjoyed teaching the public about agriculture too. They glow with pride to be able to represent Urrbrae and pass on what they've learned to other people."

During the Show, the centre also had support from Foodland and Fleurieu Milk for its produce and Thomas Foods International for its uniforms.

Photo: Larissa Tallent.

AWE-INSPIRING

designs on show

An array of eye-catching entries was displayed at the Royal Adelaide Show as part of the junior textiles competition.

The contest is aimed at creatives, aged five to 19. It has more than 100 classes, including embroidery, knitting, crochet, weaving, and textile article and garment construction.

Claire Bennett, who coordinates the competition, said they had about 150 entries this year – slightly down on 2022. All projects, winning or otherwise, were displayed in glass cabinets in the Duncan Gallery throughout the Show.

“We had really incredible entries from kids whose parents couldn’t knit or crochet or sew – the students had just learned all their skills from YouTube and created fantastic things,” Claire said.

Among the major prize winners was Tiah Hough from Mount Barker’s Cornerstone College. She won the most outstanding garment overall for a red safin dress. Her prizes included a sewing machine, sponsored by Smallacombe Real Estate, and a \$75 voucher from The Drapery.

“Tiah is the most brilliant, highly skilled tailor,” Claire said. “I’ve been a textiles teacher for 40 years; I

don’t know that I would’ve had the precision, in school, that she has.”

Tiah has been working hard to raise funds to study fashion design at Brisbane’s Whitehouse Institute in future.

“She wants to have her own business, designing and making formal wear and wedding dresses,” Claire said.

The most successful school in junior textiles was St Mark’s College in Port Pirie. It won \$200 from the Home Economics Institute of Australia.

Mia Stevens from The Heights School in Modbury won the best overall quilt, nabbing \$100. “She’s a third-generation quilter in her family,” Claire said. “She’s really driven; she’ll be a quilter for life.”

Meanwhile, quirky designs among the entries included a frock, made from plastic Coles bags, by Victor Harbor student Maggie Bamford – in a ‘recycled materials’ class.

An awards presentation and preview night for students and teachers was held at the Showground on September 1.



Student Tiah Hough receiving a sewing machine from sponsor David Smallacombe. Photo: Deb Curtis

NEW
HOME
FOR



carer's lounge

Above: SACARE CEO Chloe Kemp, Jake, and his mum, Karina McDonald, at this year's Royal Adelaide Show.

Picture: The Advertiser.

Below left to right: Kate Auricht and her daughter's Paige and Madeline experienced the Show together for the first time in 2022, thanks to the Carer's Lounge.



The Carer's Lounge was back at the Royal Adelaide Show for a second year and was "a huge success".

Supported by disability services provider SACARE, the lounge offered a safe, quiet space for carers, support workers, families, and people with sensory and accessibility needs to unwind or tend to medical requirements in comfort.

This was the first year the lounge was located in the State Basketball Centre – its new permanent home after previously being housed in a portable building.

The concept for the lounge, which includes a sensory room and changing facility, was inspired by SACARE staff member Karina McDonald.

She's often on the hunt for a private, hygienic space to PEG-feed and change her eight-year-old son, Jake, who has quadriplegic cerebral palsy and epilepsy. After discussing the lack of infrastructure with SACARE chief executive Chloe Kempe, the Carer's Lounge was born.

The success of the Show's lounge has since seen the concept rolled out at the Melbourne Royal Show and the VAILO Adelaide 500. Next, there will be one at the Adelaide Fringe, and discussions are

taking place to bring the idea to more major events nationally.

Over the nine days of the Royal Adelaide Show, about 1200 visitors used the lounge, according to Karina.

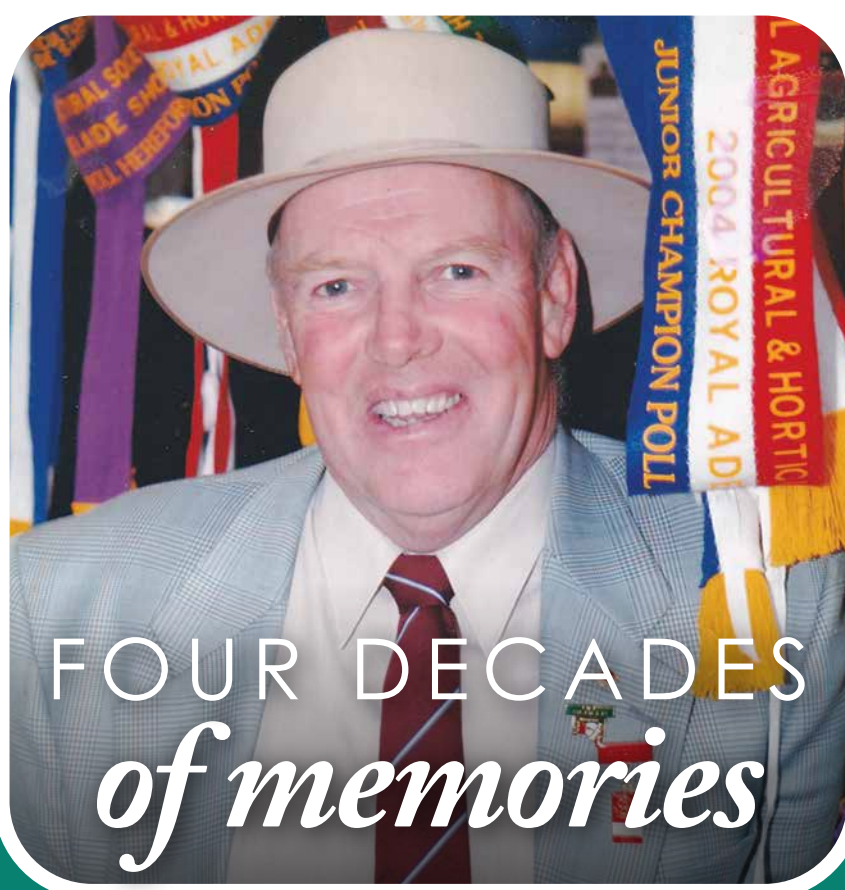
For her family, she said: "It took away a lot of the anxiety from that setting – to just know that we could go out and enjoy everything as a family of five was actual magic. We spent all day at the Show.

"Obviously, we face many challenges in a day [logistics-wise]. So, to just have a fun family activity, and to be somewhere that we knew would be comfortable for everybody, was fantastic.

"Jake has blended foods that go through his tummy via a tube. So, we put his food in the fridge at the lounge. Then when we could come back and feed him when he was ready. My other two children went into the sensory space and hung out there while I fed Jake."

Equipment in the sensory room includes interactive screens, bubble tubes, and fibre optic lights.

"The fact that we could all stay together as a family was great. These lounges should be everywhere," Karina said.



Keith Bennett during his last year of showing in Adelaide in 2004.

FOUR DECADES *of memories*

No beef about it – forty-two years is a decent innings.

That's how long Keith Bennett was a beef cattle councillor for the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA (RA&HS), before stepping down in 2020.

"Probably, it's like anything, while you're still enjoying it, you continue to do it," the former Poll Hereford breeder said.

"But it got to the stage where I had to retire due to age, because you can't stay on the council after you're 75. If that hadn't been the case, I probably would've liked to still be there.

"I still come down to the Show [with wife Laurice] and obviously you miss the mateship on council and with the other breeders. A lot of what the Show is about is catching up with people."

If his stint as a councillor is impressive, the now 77-year-old has been exhibiting at the Show even longer. His family's Heatherdale stud in Myponga first began showing in 1956, only a few years after the stud was established by Keith's father, Les.

Later, Keith took up the mantle, showing his beloved Poll Herefords for many decades, helped by Laurice and their daughters, Joanne, Michelle, and Nicole.

(What Keith most loves about the breed is their "docility".) The family's final year of showing at the Royal Adelaide was in 2004.

Accolades along the way have included two Barton-Steer perpetual trophies. These were awarded to the grand champion Poll Hereford bull, needing three wins to nab the trophy. As well, the family got their name twice on a third Barton-Steer trophy.

The Bennetts also won breed champion in 1987 with a bull, named Heatherdale Arrow, which was sold privately the day after judging for a Showground record of \$75,000. Arrow went on to win supreme champion at the Melbourne Show and all breeds champion in Sydney.

For Keith, an important part of exhibiting is presentation. "We were probably one of the first to actually start clipping the animals to make them look their best.

"You might not get a ribbon, but provided the cattle or livestock are presented properly, there's always going to be someone who likes them. It doesn't have to be the judge every time, but there'll be someone going through the shed who does."

But back to his time as a councillor – Keith is most proud of the fact that the committee introduced youth programs, like the schools-led

steers competition, before similar ones existed in the sheep and goat sections.

"Any industry is only going to die if you don't involve your youth. That was always the big thing: trying to get young people interested in the land and to stay on the land."

For the most part, while on the committee, Keith said things ran "pretty smoothly".

"You get the odd animal who gets away and that sort of thing. There's always a little bit of risk when you're out in the parade, because the cattle get out there, and the horses and the trolleys are going around the arena, and they're not used to those sorts of things – and vice versa for the horses.

"Sometimes, things go haywire. There has been the odd animal that's got out of the Showground and run down the street, but not very often."

Since selling the family stud, Keith has retired to a 2ha property in Encounter Bay with Laurice, though they no longer keep any livestock. "We've got a pretty massive garden. So, in between looking after that, playing golf, and doing a bit of fishing and caravanning, time seems to get away from you."

Filling his big shoes on the committee these days is Red Angus breeder Mark Llewellyn from Willalooka.



*Thank
you*

TO OUR
VOLUNTEERS!



The Royal Adelaide Show wouldn't happen without the valuable help of our volunteers.

Over the course of the nine-day event, a contingent of 180 dedicated volunteers lent a hand to ensure its smooth operation.

Along with the councillors, committee members, stewards and attendants who volunteer their services annually at the Show, the RA&HS recruits a specialist team of event volunteers. They're trained to undertake such roles as Show kiosk and Aggie's Farm attendants and lost-and-found helpers.

Vanessa Hoey, the head of people and culture at the RA&HS, said all such volunteers are the lifeblood of the Show.

"To express our gratitude and appreciation, a barbecue was held for a gathering of over 100 volunteers on October 14.

"During this event, long-serving members of the team were acknowledged and celebrated. Seven volunteers were commended for their extraordinary 10 years of service, while an additional 14 were recognised for their dedicated five years of service."

This year, the volunteer team also moved into their brand new home, known as 'Volunteer HQ' (previously the 'Stock Journal'). In addition to being another customer service touchpoint - providing maps and general information to the public - the space operated successfully as the Show's lost-and-found. As well, it offered room for much-needed time-out for the volunteer team, with a private breakout area and amenities.



Top drops unveiled

AT WINE SHOW

Western Australian winery Evans & Tate took out top honours at the 2023 Royal Adelaide Wine Show.

Lauded for its “stunning depth and length of flavour”, the winery’s Redbrook Estate Shiraz 2019 was awarded the Max Schubert AM Trophy for Most Outstanding Red in Show.

The win is another feather in the cap for the Margaret River winery, which was also awarded Best Wine in Show at the Sydney Royal Wine Show (Redbrook Estate Chardonnay 2021) and the Perth Royal Wine Awards (Redbrook Reserve Chardonnay 2020) earlier this year.

On the show as a whole, Greg Follett, the Wine Committee chair and a past Max Schubert Trophy recipient, said it had been another fantastic year. This was despite a drop of about 10 per cent in entries due to a tougher economic climate.

“We had more than 2300 wines this year, and our judges have been impressed by the quality and variety of wines,” he said.

“The whole Show system is still about bettering the ‘breed’ and putting wines up against your peers. And it’s one of the main reasons that Australian wine has got where it is, around the world, in the quality stakes.”

Boutique winery Stella Bella Wines, also in the Margaret River, was awarded the George Fairbrother Memorial Trophy for best White Wine in Show for its Luminosa Chardonnay 2022.

The Governor’s Trophies winners – for Best South Australian Red (Jim Barry Wines Barry and Sons Cabernet 2021) and White Wine in Show (Penfolds Cellar Reserve Polish Hill River Riesling 2023) – will now be served to guests at Government House for the next 12 months.

“We have had a great range of wines win this award in the past and it is great to see some of South Australia’s established wine labels, like Jim Barry and Penfolds, continue to enter and win awards like this,” Greg said.

Hunter Valley’s Brokenwood Wines was awarded

The Gramp Hardy Hill Smith Prize for the best National Wine of Provenance for their Indigo Vineyard Chardonnay 2012, 2016, 2022, with head winemaker Stuart Hordern awarded the F Miller & Co Prize.

One new trophy at the show this year was for the Best Reduced Alcohol Wine, although it unfortunately went unawarded. “It’s certainly part of a growing trend in the drinks category, so we wanted to recognise that,” Greg said.

“Obviously, that’s still a work-in-progress as far as getting those beverages to taste more like the regular wines we drink every day. But the more research that goes into it, and the more that they can be judged at such shows, it’ll help to improve that category.”

Commenting that there has been a gradual increase in ‘alternative’ wine varieties being entered, like vermentino, fiano, montepulciano, and nero d’avola, Greg added “these are often quite interesting for the judges to look at”.

The drops were judged by a panel of esteemed judges, from across the nation, over four days. All the trophies were presented at the Wine Communicators of Australia SA Chapter Royal Adelaide Wine and Spirits Awards lunch on October 6. The wine show itself has a long history, dating back to 1871.

Meanwhile, the wine committee were thrilled to be able to once again launch applications for the second Philip Laffer Royal Adelaide Wine Show Bursary, which closed on November 11. Sponsored by the Show Society Foundation, the one-year bursary provides \$5000 to a student undertaking studies in viticulture or oenology at an Australian university.

The bursary honours the contributions of Philip Laffer (AM) to the RA&HS, particularly the Royal Adelaide Wine Show. The winner will be announced on January 12.





royal
adelaide
wine
show

WINNERS *announced*

GRAMP, HARDY, HILL SMITH PRIZE
for National Wine of Provenance

won by Brokenwood Wines, Indigo Vineyard Chardonnay
2012, 2016, 2022

THE F. MILLER & CO PRIZE
*for Winemaker Of The National Wine
Of Provenance*

Sponsored by F Miller & Co Pty Ltd
Won by - Stuart Hordern

MAX SCHUBERT AM TROPHY
for Most Outstanding Red Wine In Show

Sponsored by CCL Label
Won by - Evans & Tate Redbrook Estate Shiraz 2019

George Fairbrother Memorial Trophy
for Most Outstanding White Wine In Show

Sponsored by Duxton Capital Australia
Won by - Stella Bella Wines Luminosa Chardonnay 2022

GOVERNOR'S TROPHY
for Best South Australian White Wine In Show

Sponsored by Government House
Won by - Penfolds Wines Pty Ltd Penfolds Cellar Reserve
Polish Hill River Riesling 2023

GOVERNOR'S TROPHY
for Best South Australian Red Wine In Show

Sponsored by Government House
Won by - Jim Barry Wines, Barry and Sons Cabernet 2021

WINE COMMUNICATORS OF AUSTRALIA,
SA CHAPTER TROPHY *for Best Shiraz In Show*

Sponsored by Wine Communicators of Australia,
SA Chapter
Won by - Evans & Tate - Redbrook Estate Shiraz 2019

PROFESSOR A.J. PERKINS TROPHY
for Best Cabernet Sauvignon In Show

Sponsored in Memory of Vilimos (Vili) Milisits
Won by - Jim Barry Wines - Barry and Sons Cabernet 2021



DR RAY BECKWITH OAM MEMORIAL TROPHY
for Best Traditional Australian Red Blend In Show

Sponsored by Fassina Liquor
Won by - Wolf Blass Wines Pty Ltd - Wolf Blass Aldi Shiraz
Cabernet 2022

LALLEMAND TROPHY *for Best Pinot Noir In Show*

Sponsored by Lallemmand
Won by - Lowestoff Estate Tasmania - Lowestoff La Maison
Pinot Noir 2022

RADOUX AUSTRALIA TROPHY
for Best Other Red Blend In Show

Sponsored by Radoux Australia
Won by - Yarra Yering - Yarra Yering Dry Red Wine
No. 3 2021

DOREAU AUSTRALIA TROPHY
for Best Shiraz 2021 Vintage And Younger

Sponsored by Doreau Australia
Won by - Chaffey Bros. Wine Co - Omnia Nova Syrah 2022

ORORA CLOSURES TROPHY
for Best Shiraz 2020 Vintage And Older

Sponsored by Orora Closures
Won by - Evans & Tate - Redbrook Estate Shiraz 2019





BDO TROPHY *for Best Dry White Blend In Show*

Sponsored by BDO

Won by – Deep Woods Estate - Deep Woods Ivory Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2023

PROGRAMMED PROPERTY SERVICES TROPHY *for Best Other Varietal White In Show*

Sponsored by Programmed Property Services Ltd

Won by – Zerella Wines - Zerella Wines La Gita 2023

BRAUD AUSTRALIA TROPHY

for Best Sweet White Table Wine In Show

Sponsored by Braud Australia

Won by – De Bortoli Wines - Noble One 2021

PIPER ALDERMAN TROPHY *for Best Rosé in show*

Sponsored by Piper Alderman

Won by – Seppeltsfield Wines Pty Ltd - Barossa Grenache Rose 2023

THE JOHN FORNACHON MEMORIAL TROPHY *for Best Apera, Topaque, Muscat Or Sweet White In Show*

Sponsored by Quest King William South

Casella Family Brands - Morris Wines Old Premium Rare Muscat 20 Years Morris Wines / Old Premium Muscat

INDAILY TROPHY *for Best Australian Vintage, Tawny Or Ruby In Show*

Sponsored by indaily.com.au

Won by – Seppeltsfield Wines Pty Ltd Para Rare Tawny Blend

MEMLO TROPHY *for Best Reduced Alcohol Wine in Show*

Not awarded

KARL SEPPELT AO TROPHY

for Best Other Varietal Red In Show

Sponsored by Mr David C Dridan OAM and Integrated Precision Viticulture

Won by – Bleasdale Vineyards - Bleasdale Tempranillo 2022

TILBROOK RASHEED TROPHY *for Best Grenache In Show*

Sponsored by Tilbrook Rasheed

Won by – Kilikanoon - Prodigal 2021

HURTLE and NORMAN WALKER TROPHY

for Best Sparkling Wine In Show

Sponsored by Vinocor

Won by – Printhe Wines - Swift 2015 Vintage 2015

THE AFFINITY LABS TROPHY *for Best Riesling In Show*

Sponsored by Affinity Labs

Won by – Penfolds Wines Pty Ltd - Penfolds Cellar Reserve Polish Hill River Riesling 2023

ARKABA CELLARS TROPHY

for Best Sauvignon Blanc In Show

Sponsored by Arkaba Hotel

Won by – Grant Burge Wines - Grant Burge Pearl Sauvignon Blanc 2023

FINLAYSONS TROPHY *for Best Semillon In Show*

Sponsored by Finlaysons

Won by – Brokenwood Wines - ILR Reserve Semillon 2017

SEGUIN MOREAU TROPHY *for Best Chardonnay In Show*

Sponsored by Seguin Moreau Australasia

Won by – Stella Bella Wines - Luminosa Chardonnay 2022



Going for gold

Food and wine lovers had their tastebuds tickled at a special event on October 6.

The long-running *Taste of the Best* event was held at the Showground, although, this year saw a change.

For the first time ever, ticketholders got to try not only top drops from the Royal Adelaide Wine and Spirits Awards, but a selection of gold trophy winners and first place-getters from across the Show competitions.

This included – as part of a grazing table – pork from Gumshire Pork, Thomas Foods International beef, cheese care of Woodside Cheese Wrights, Village Baker bread, and Ceravolo Orchards fruit.

As well, the 266 guests could satiate their sweet tooth with Drakes ice cream and chocolates from Barossa Valley Chocolate Company, SkyCity, and Coal River Farm.

RA&HS event manager Chelsea Wilkinson said: “We’re delighted with the response from new and returning patrons on the added element of award-winning chocolates, cheese, meat, and ice cream for tasting.

“These additions not only complemented the wine and spirits nicely, but spoke to what the RA&HS represents so perfectly. We are looking forward to growing this event in 2024.”



TOP SA YOUTH *awarded*

Lucy Newman won senior champion in both the beef parader and dairy handler categories.

The state's best young judges and paraders were honoured at the 2023 Royal Adelaide Show.

The Agricultural Societies Council of SA coordinates a number of Young Judges competitions at country shows throughout the year, with the state final held annually in Adelaide.

A total of 550 entries were received across 11 competitions. Open to youth aged 15 to 25, the South Australian Young Judges and Paraders State Championships is a training ground for future judges.

Jacqueline Francis, the youth competitions coordinator, said it was another successful year for the championships.

"It was great to see past competitors return to compete again, as well as having some competitions won by people who have never entered the state finals before.

"This year, we held our second Soil Young Judges Competition, and it was good to have three of our regular 'young judge' competitors give this competition a go and prove that anyone can do it."

2023 saw record numbers in the Dairy Handlers' competition, with 126 entries, as well as in the Merino Sheep section (132 entries) and in Merino Fleece (97).

Jacqueline said: "We are working on putting systems in place to make these competitions run smoothly at our state level and are also looking into ways that will allow our interstate and international visitors to compete, while still finding the best South Australians to represent us at the Agricultural Shows of Australia national championships."

The state representatives will go on to compete at the nationals in Melbourne next year.

SA's winners and state representatives for 2023

ALPACA YOUNG JUDGES

Senior winner: Victoria Clark
State representative: Juliana Brookes

BEEF CATTLE YOUNG JUDGES

Junior winner: Olivia Hassell
Senior winner and state representative: Chelsea Harrop

BEEF CATTLE YOUNG PARADERS

Overall champion and sub junior winner: Elle Davies
Junior winner: Maddison Hann
Intermediate winner: Shayla Lepse
Senior winner and state representative: Lucy Newman

DAIRY CATTLE YOUNG HANDLERS

Sub junior winner: Lucy Mason
Junior winner: Shae Tweddle
Intermediate winner: Tess Newman
Overall champion, senior winner, and state representative: Lucy Newman

DAIRY CATTLE YOUNG JUDGES

Junior winner: Chelsea Schultz
Senior winner and state representative: Bridget Liebelt

Merino fleece young judges: senior winner Alison West and junior winner Asha Rowe.

GRAIN YOUNG JUDGES

Overall champion: Emily Chambers

MEAT SHEEP YOUNG JUDGES

Senior winner and state representative: Elise Johnson

MERINO FLEECE YOUNG JUDGES

Junior winner: Asha Rowe
Senior winner and state representative: Alison West

MERINO SHEEP YOUNG JUDGES

Junior winner: Charli Vandeleur
Senior winner and state representative: Beau Maddern

POULTRY YOUNG JUDGES

Winner and state representative: Edward Lock

SOIL YOUNG JUDGES

Winner: Charlotte Poker



For details on all country shows in South Australia, visit www.sacountryshows.com

2024 SA Country Shows Dates

FEBRUARY 2024

- 24 Angaston Show
- 24 Lucindale Show

MARCH 2024

- 2 Mannum Show
- 2 Mundulla Show
- 9 Tanunda Show
- 16 Maitland Show
- 16 Mt Pleasant Show
- 23 Mt Barker & District Show
- 23 Keith & Tintinara Show

APRIL 2024

- 5 - 6 Karoonda Farm Fair & Show

AUGUST 2024

- 10 Crystal Brook Show
- 11 Port Lincoln Show
- 17-18 Copper Coast Show (formerly Kadina)
- 17-18 Whyalla Show
- 24-25 Gawler Show

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 14 Wudinna & District AH&F Show
- 15 Wilmington Agricultural Show
- 20-21 Murray Bridge Show
- 21 Balaklava & Dalkey Show
- 21 Kimba AH&F Show
- 22 Quorn Agricultural Show
- 28 Yankaililla, Rapid Bar & Myponga Show

OCTOBER 2024

- 5 Mt Remarkable - Melrose Show
- 5 Cummins Show & Ag Fair
- 6-7 Jamestown Show
- 6-7 Kingston SE Show
- 6-7 Loxton Show
- 7 Strathalbyn Show
- 7 SYP Minlaton Show
- 7 Yallunda Flat A&H Show
- 9 Pinnaroo Show & Field Day
- 12 Burra Show
- 12 Clare Show
- 12 Mil-Lel A&H Show
- 12 Cleve Annual Show
- 12-13 Port Elliot Show
- 19 Coonalpyn Show
- 19-20 Naracoorte Show
- 25-26 Mt Gambier Show
- 26 Kapunda & Light Agricultural Show
- 27 Callington Show

NOVEMBER 2024

- 1-2 Penola A&H Show
- 8-9 Millicent AH&P Show
- 2 Kangaroo Island (Kingscote) Show
- 3 Uraidla & Summertown Show
- 10 Eudunda Show
- 16 Parndana AH&F Show
- 16-17 Bordertown Spring Festival & Show



Keith Colyer, right, with fellow life member Grant Waterman.

MEMBER for life

Keith Colyer has been presented with an honorary life membership of the Agricultural Societies Council of SA (ASC of SA).

The British-born Port Germein resident was recognised at the annual Royal Adelaide Show dinner on September 5.

Keith said it was "the culmination and highlight of my 35-year involvement in country shows when our current state president, Rosie Schultz, totally surprised me and left me speechless by presenting me with the membership".

"As I said on the night, I believe that this award does not just belong to me but also to those who have been on the journey with me over the past 35 years – especially my wife of 53 years, Ann, without whose support I would not have been able to do what I have done.

"It was extra special to have Grant Waterman, also a life member, pin the badge on my lapel."

Volunteering has always been a big part of Keith's life. He started at age 15 and is now 85.

"One of the achievements of my 70 years of volunteering is that I feel comfortable with everyone that I meet, no matter what their station is in life," Keith said.

"I feel at ease with prime ministers, premiers, governors, mayors, bishops, cardinals, and even the Pope."

Previously, Keith worked in business

administration. In between, he volunteered for Vinnies and in support of the Catholic education of his nine children – over 33 years.

His connection to country shows began in Mount Barker in 1988. "The Nairne Lions Club sent me as an observer on the steering committee that had been formed to re-establish the Mount Barker Show that had been in recess for 26 years."

The next year, he became the president of that Show – a role he held for a decade. This led to him being involved in country shows at a state and national level for the ASC of SA and the Federal Council of Agricultural Societies.

"The latter journey took me to every state in Australia, and the Northern Territory for the Darwin Show," Keith said. "In 2013, we also attended the national championships with our cousins in the 'seventh state', New Zealand."

Among his roles at the ASC of SA, Keith had a 20-year association with Bob Rankin, working in the publicity and promotion caravan and at the Yellow Brick Road stand.

"I worked alongside Bob for nearly two decades. We did not always agree but we worked well together for the same goal," Keith said with a laugh.

To this day, Keith remains involved with country shows, volunteering as a steward at the Mount Remarkable (Melrose) Show. His wife is also a convenor of knitting there.



The full list of results can be found at: www.sasheepexpo.com.au



The seven finalists in this year's State Rural Ambassadors competition. Including (back, left) Alan Lintern, Central; James Krieg, Northern; John O'Mahoney, Northern; and Lachlan Johnson, South East & Border. And (front, left) Carly Gogel, South East & Border; Elise Kennedy, Murray Lands; and Emily Halloran, Southern.

Rural ambassadors NAMED

In a celebration of youth in rural South Australia, involved in the agricultural shows movement, Lachy Johnson from Bordertown was announced as the 2023 State Rural Ambassador Award winner.

The awards program is open to young people, aged 20 to 30, who are committed to their local show and community. As well, the entrants are judged on such things as their general and rural knowledge, communication skills, goals, conduct, and more.

The seven finalists spent four days at the Royal Adelaide Show, enjoying behind-the-scenes tours and meetups, as well as undertaking interviews onstage and with a panel.

Lachy represented the Mundulla Show Society from the South-East and Border Show Association. He works on a farm and runs his own fabrication and mechanical business. Lachy's been involved with the Mundulla Show since a young age and is now the vice-president.

For him, winning the award was a "great honour". "Over the next 12 months, I look forward to visiting as many shows as possible. I hope to encourage more young

people in my region to participate in their local show."

Lachy and the two runners-up, Carly Gogel, representing the Naracoorte Pastoral and Agricultural Society from the South-East and Border Association, and Elise Kennedy, representing the Pinnaroo Show Society from the Murraylands Association, have each won study tours.

Meanwhile, earlier in July, Mackenzie Wilson from Williamstown was honoured as this year's state Young Rural Ambassador. This award caters for 16- to 19-year-olds.

Mackenzie, who represented the Gawler Show and the Northern Show Region, is studying for a double degree in journalism and arts at the University of South Australia. She's been an active volunteer at the Gawler Show, including as an officeholder in the youth team.

The runner-up was Daniella Yates from the Kimba Show and Eyre Peninsula Show Association. Daniella's enjoying a gap year as a governess at Inverleigh West Station before she'll embark on a Bachelor of Agriculture degree.

She has been committed to local shows for many years, from childhood art entries

to her current volunteer work behind the scenes.

The awards program has been run by SA Country Shows for 25 years. Sponsors include the state Department of Primary Industries and Regions and the Show Society Foundation.

Jacqueline Francis, the youth competitions coordinator, said it was a pleasure and honour to work with such an inspiring group of young people.

Adding: "The exciting thing that we're looking forward to, in 2025, is ASA [Agricultural Shows Australia] will hold the national finals for the young judges, paraders, and ambassador programs in Adelaide. The last time we held the finals was in 2018. So, we can't wait to host it again.



For details on all country shows in South Australia, visit: www.sacountryshows.com



The South Australian student team and their coach, Luke Finn, with the mixed-state, early-career team and their coach, Erinne Stirling - in the individual competition pit.

SA STUDENTS

dig deep

University students from South Australia won the team section at the Australian Soil Judging competition in Darwin in June.

The competition, organised by Soil Science Australia (SSA), included two days of training on how to interpret soil profiles and one day of judging. It was held prior to the SSA's biennial national conference.

Soil Science Australia is a not-for-profit association for soil scientists and those interested in the responsible management of Australia's soil resources.

The SA team – including Birhanu Iticha, Kate Matthews, Nathan Strawbridge, Alex Busch, and Alex Mackenzie – were coached by TERN soil scientist Luke Finn.

More than 70 students from universities and organisations around Australia and New Zealand attended the event.

A \$2,000 cash sponsorship from the Show Society Education Foundation contributed to the South Australian team's travel and accommodation costs.

John Weber, the SA branch president of SSA, said "it was fantastic to see all the teams progress in their skills and begin to confidently work through the tasks and begin to correctly classify soils".

Adding: "Unique landscapes, changing over time with significant weathering processes, made for some very interesting discussions.

"Certainly, soils encountered were vastly different than anything the SA team would have exposure to here in South Australia."

The students worked within a durian and jackfruit orchard, about 45 minutes' drive from Darwin.

The winners of the competition were announced on the first day of the SSA conference.

"The SA branch is immensely proud of the team's dedication and their ability to apply their knowledge and to work within a team to achieve such a result," John said.

"Soil judging is arguably one of the best possible training grounds for aspiring soil professionals.

"Students come away from the competition with not only knowledge of how soil is formed and how to classify soil, but with a sense of the importance of soils and how endlessly fascinating and varied they can be.

"Maybe, most important of all, the students are able to see long-term, future career pathways in soil science."

The SA branch will soon begin preparations to send two teams to the New Zealand competition in 2024 and the joint Australia and New Zealand contest in 2025.

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The future is SCIENCE

Everything from whether colour affects taste to how salt can impact plant growth was examined in a state-wide contest.

School students participated in the grand final of the Science Investigation Awards at the Royal Adelaide Show on September 4. The Award has been run through Food and Fibre Education SA, which is AgCommunicators education arm, for 10 years. Prior to this it was delivered by the Primary Industries Centre for Science Education.

The awards are an annual competition for students in years 4 to 10. Consulting company AgCommunicators visits schools and teaches students about experimental design and research methodology. Then students choose their own science investigation research project on any topic which interests them. Students present their results in a poster, which is judged on its science, for example its aims, methodology, results and discussion.

Winning entries from each school move through to the Royal Adelaide Show, where an 'inter-school' grand final is held. This year, about 900 students entered the competition, with 98 grand finalists selected.

On judging day, the students displayed their research and experiments and were interviewed by industry judges. Around 14 industry judges attend and are allocated a year level to judge. This means, each student is judged by two different judges.

Year 5 student Stella Schwartz from Manoora Primary in the Mid-North won the primary school prize for the best food and fibre project, nabbing \$300.

Stella's success was particularly poignant as her project had personal meaning, according to Manoora teacher Heather Merritt.

"It was about whether you could grow rice in the floods along the River Murray. Stella's grandparents live along the river, and they'd flooded, so that's why she'd chosen that." (As Stella discovered, brown rice can be grown in the floodwaters.)

On the competition as a whole, Heather said it was fantastic for students as "there are so many jobs in science".

"We are creating the problem solvers of the future. It's really that problem-solving and creativity that is great, because it allows people to research something that they're really passionate about.

"And [investigation-wise] it's quite magical, because you don't know exactly what's going to happen until you do it. Your prediction might not actually come true."

Danielle Mitton, a teacher at Ramco Primary in the Riverland, said they had students in years 4 to 6 take part.

"The best part of the competition is the incredibly engaging learning. They learn how to safely set up and conduct experiments, collect their data and analyse the results, and share their scientific findings."

This year, the school scored two first places at the grand final – Evan Smyth in the year 4 category, examining how worms affected plant growth, and Max Pfeiler in the year 6 category, whose project asked: 'Which biofuel produces the most methane?' Both students won \$250.

"We first participated [in the competition] in 2021 and will continue participating each year as it is such a valuable learning experience for the students," Danielle said.

The award recipients' exhibits were displayed at the Stirling Angas Hall during the Show. The Show Society Foundation sponsored the prizes.



Ramco's Lily Mitton investigated whether birds have a favourite hue.



Ramco's Harry Smyth and Rupert Pfeiler explored how salt levels impact plant growth.

All the
conference
delegates



ADELAIDE WAS THE STAGE FOR

national ag conference

Adelaide was the home of the second national conference for Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) in August and September.

The conference, themed *Showing into the Future*, was held at the Hilton Adelaide Hotel and included a back-of-house tour of the Adelaide Showground for attendees.

ASA was formed in 2016 and its first conference was staged on Queensland's Gold Coast in 2020. The body serves to promote the role and significance of Australian agricultural shows to the wider community.

Katie Stanley, ASA's executive officer, said it was fantastic to have the conference in SA for the first time.

"The conference was a wonderful success in Adelaide with much positive feedback," she said. "We had nearly 200 delegates attending from every state and territory in Australia, as well as from New Zealand. We also had delegates from Ireland and the US."

Most attendees were associated with a show in some form, whether as a councillor, employee, or volunteer.

Keynote speakers included Melbourne futurist Paul Higgins and, from the US, Marla Calico, the chief executive of the International Association of Fairs and Expos, and Jennifer Giesike, who heads up the Washington Town and County Fair.

RA&HS chief executive Will Rayner and Society President Andrew Hardy were also among those speaking on panels.

"A presentation from [SA immersive technology studio] Think Digital was another highlight, showcasing how technology can be used at ag shows to engage the public in the agricultural space," Katie said.

Other topics during the conference also raised interesting discussions.

"Finding and retaining volunteers is an enormous issue for the majority of our agricultural shows," Katie said.

"Staying relevant was another hot topic and starting to think about the ESG [environmental, social, and governance] impact on agricultural shows – certainly something the Royal Shows are actively exploring."

This year's conference was held with support from the RA&HS and the Agricultural Societies Council of SA (SA Country Shows), and Katie looks forward to another such event being staged soon, with the details still being confirmed.

"Conferences like these are incredibly important as they bring together, on a national and international basis, like-minded people who all face the same challenges when it comes to running an agricultural show.

"The sustainability of agricultural shows is vital. They are some of the longest running events in our country's history.

"So, it is essential that these people have the opportunity to come together on a national basis to share ideas, meet new people, and think outside the box."

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*SA Governor Frances Adamson
addressing the audience*

Proudly promoting and supporting education in all fields of agriculture and horticulture

The Show Society Foundation provides scholarships, grants, bursaries and prizes, with the aim of developing knowledge, skills and career's in primary industries for the benefit of South Australia

For more information visit
www.showsocietyfoundation.com.au



Show Society
FOUNDATION



From the CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This year's Royal Adelaide Show was a great success. We enjoyed a safe and happy event, with fantastic crowds and large numbers of competitive entries.

I would particularly like to thank the RA&HS board, staff, councillors and volunteers for the vital part they play in delivering South Australia's favourite and longest-running event. We simply couldn't undertake the tremendous work of the Show Society without our fantastic army of volunteers.

The 2023 Show was the first where we enjoyed the facilities of the new State Basketball Centre. The new building – on the north-west corner of the Showground – is an expansion of the former Wayville Sports Centre and was built largely thanks to \$15.8 million in funding from the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Of course, during the Royal Show this building is home to the dog competition.

And what a world-class facility it proved to be – becoming (dare I say it!) the best dog judging pavilion in Australia, and perhaps even the world.

Another feature of this new building is a new, permanent space for people with disabilities and their carers. The space, including a sensory room and changing facility, is available for use during the Show and year-round for the basketball community.

Meanwhile, following a seamless bump-out after the Show – and with the Showground back in immaculate condition – there has been a non-stop calendar of events cycling through the Adelaide Showground. These will continue well into the New Year. Excitedly, we can announce that the Cirque du Soleil will be here for its first show in June 2024. The contemporary circus will make use of a new, purpose-built space, where the caravan park and former horse stables are located. Expect plenty of awe-inspiring stunts and amazing costuming onstage!

Finally, as the end of the year draws closer, I would like to wish you all a happy festive season and a safe and prosperous 2024.

William Rayner
Chief Executive Officer, RA&HS SA Inc



DOUBLE SHOT *at a win*

The Royal Adelaide Coffee Show is set to return for a second year.

Lucy Silva, the entertainment and events manager for the RA&HS, said the coffee contest was a great way to kick off the competitions for the year.

"We are looking to increase the exhibitor reach and entries in 2024. The inaugural competition saw a great mix of exhibitors from all over Australia.

"[Since] the introduction of the competition, we anticipate seeing additional roasters entering from all states and territories of the country."

Exhibitors will have access to the Entries portal to submit their entries from Friday, January 12, 2024.

Entries will be judged onsite at the Adelaide Showground in late March, with the awards presentation taking place in mid-April.

COFFEE SHOW KEY DATES

Entries open: Friday, 12 January 2024.

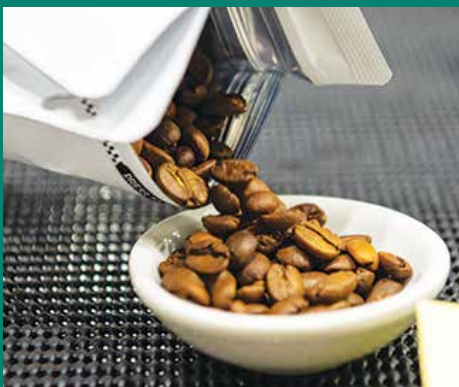
Entries close: Monday, 26 February.

Delivery of exhibits: Tuesday 19,

Wednesday 20 & Thursday 21 March.

Judging dates: Monday 25, Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 March.

Awards presentation: Friday 19 April.



Two South Australian distilleries took out the top gongs at the 2023 Royal Australian Spirits Awards in October.

This year's Champion Spirit of Show was brandy St Agnes XO from Denmark's St Agnes Distillery, and the Champion Small Batch went to Myrtle Bank's Webb Spirit Co with its Original Australian Dry Gin.

2023 marks the fourth year for the awards, with the winners announced as part of the Wine Communicators of Australia SA Chapter Royal Adelaide Wine and Spirits Awards lunch on October 6.

Tim Gniel returned once again as the chair of the judges, bringing a wealth of knowledge from his role as the head distiller at Nairne's 78 Degrees. He was delighted to see St Agnes also nab the Champion Brandy award for its St Agnes XO.

"St Agnes is the oldest distillery in South Australia, has an incredible history, and makes fantastic brandies. They hadn't won the Champion Spirit of Show before, so I think that was a great result."

Across the board, the competition received a total of 186 entries from all over Australia – a slight decrease from last year.

Gin continued to be the major category, comprising 53 per cent of the entries. All the other categories, apart from whisky, held steady or have slowly grown.

"Gin continues to drive the industry and we had good representation across the classes, with strong gold medals being awarded," Tim said.

"The best examples had punchy, fresh juniper and were full of character. As well, it was particularly pleasing to see the growth in rum and the 'other' category, with spirit styles as diverse as pisco (originating from South America) and rakija (from the Balkans) being represented and also being awarded medals.

"It's interesting as a link to the Wine Show too that we had brandy, pisco and rakija in the show, which are all styles produced from grapes."

This year, a panel of judges, led by consultant Darren Lange, oversaw the aged spirits (whisky, rum, and brandy). These products must be aged for a minimum of two years in a barrel before release.

For Tim, the success of the awards signals a bright future for the trade. "The craft spirits industry has grown massively in Australia and a lot of that has been in South Australia. It really started with gin production here.

"Consumers are now looking for better products – handmade, so to speak. They're drinking better quality, and they want to know where the beverages come from."

*For a full list of results and information, visit
www.spiritawards.com.au*

CARAVAN PARK

back in the swing

At the end of July, the Adelaide Showground Caravan Park closes down in preparation for the Royal Adelaide Show, when it becomes the home to the horse competition, with stables, wash bays and lunging arena.

On September 29, the park reopened its gates to the public, with a steady stream of guests staying or returning in October and November.

Throughout the year, the park has been booked out well in advance some weekends, such as during the VAILO Adelaide 500 car race.

While it isn't yet at capacity for Christmas and New Year, the park's expected to be very busy right through until March.

There are, of course, many great reasons to stay at the Wayville site. It's pet-friendly, so you don't have to find a place to house your pooch over Christmas but can bring them along. The main arena is a good spot to exercise your dogs.

The caravan park is also well positioned near facilities like the outdoor Unley Swimming Centre, the Adelaide Farmers' Market (open every Sunday), and the Gilles at the Grounds Market (including its Christmas markets). Powered and tent sites are available.



2023

South Australian
Tourism Awards



Congratulations

to the *Adelaide Showground Farmers' Market and Caravan and Camping SA* which won gold in their respective categories at the 2023 South Australian Tourism Awards.

The awards recognise business excellence and outstanding achievement in the state's tourism industry.

The *Adelaide Showground Farmers' Market* took home the top honour in the Excellence in Food Tourism category and the *Let's Go Caravan, Camping and Outdoor Show* for the Festivals and Events category.

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SLAM DUNK FOR NEW LOOK *basketball centre*

After a two-year wait, the State Basketball Centre within the Adelaide Showground opened in time for the Show.

Through the project build, an additional four courts have been provided (inclusive of an International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Level 1 rated show court), taking the Wayville venue to a seven-court basketball facility overall.

The State Government contributed \$15.8 million to the construction works as part of its continued efforts to grow sport and recreation in South Australia.

During the Show, the dog competition used

three of the new courts for showing dogs and judging. Another court housed the Pet Centre, showcasing pets like cats, rabbits, and snakes.

Jason Hemingway, the Showground venue manager, said there was some “nervousness” about whether the space would work when the keys were handed over in August.

However, he said it all worked out “beautifully”. “We’ve certainly been a lot busier down that side of the Showground and it’s been fantastic to see the centre being used as it was designed, an esteemed multi-purpose venue”.

To ensure the maple, sprung flooring from the US wasn’t damaged during the dog competition, 13mm-thick gymnasium matting was laid on top. Royal Show coordinator Ross Hocking said it worked a treat too.

“We’ve had other venues that are already looking at the flooring solution and will take some learnings for their competitions.”

Meanwhile, the three courts in the old building were used by exhibitors for ‘benching’ and grooming their dogs when not competing.

“When the basketball stadium was built 25 years ago that’s where the dog benching originally was,” Jason said.

“So, it was a return home in that regard. The area works better because it’s on the edge of the site and the dogs can come straight in. In the previous location, the benching was in the next building over, so the entrants had to walk out in the weather.”

Another feature of the centre is a lounge

for people with disabilities and their carers, which includes a sensory room and changing facility. This is available during the Show and year-round for the basketball community.

For Francis McEvoy, the chair of the Show’s dog committee, the new-look venue exceeded all expectations.

“Everyone who went was super-impressed with it. The interstate competitors were envious, and the word has gone right around the country about how good the showing pavilion is now in South Australia. It was a real, real plus for the Royal this year.”

A standout feature, according to Francis, was the showing’s rubberised flooring – preferable to the artificial grass of the past.

“The dogs moved so freely on it and the exhibitors loved it as well. The second big plus was how roomy everything was for people to move around and for the public to come and look at the dogs. The whole place felt different.”

Anticipation for the new centre and the calibre of judges – including Finland’s Satu Yla-Mononen and Norway’s Arne Foss – helped boost competition entries by 15 per cent this year, totalling 2300. “I’m hoping that we get a bounce next year as well,” Francis said.

Outside of Showtime, the centre is now a home for Basketball SA, SA Country Basketball, SA Wheelchair Basketball, and SA Church Basketball, plus women’s team Adelaide Lightning and the Forestville Eagles.

Basketball events that have already been staged on-site include the Masters Games and the school sports’ state finals.

These canine competitors enjoyed the new courts and judging areas.



Shop this Christmas

AT THE AWARD-WINNING FARMERS' MARKET



Organisers of the Adelaide Showground Farmers' Market are thrilled to share its win in the 'Excellence in Food Tourism' category at the South Australian Tourism Awards in November.

The accolade is a testament to its unwavering dedication to showcasing South Australian produce and providing an immersive food tourism experience.

Moreover, the recognition places the market as a finalist in the upcoming national Tourism Awards, highlighting its prominence in the Australian tourism industry.

As the holiday season approaches, make your shopping experience extra special at the award-winning market.

The market remains open as usual on Sundays throughout December and January, running from 8.30am to 12.30pm (although on Christmas Eve on December 24, it'll be open from 7.30am to 11.30am). It'll also be open on New Year's Eve at the usual time to help visitors start the day right.

Special pre-order options, with select stallholders, can help streamline holiday preparations, making it easier than ever to find your Christmas and New Year supplies – all in the one spot.

Whether you're seeking succulent roasts, seasonal fruit and vegetables, artisanal treats or unique Christmas gifts and beverages, the market has you covered.

The organisers have also lined up festive activities for every Sunday in December. From finding Elves on the Shelves and enjoying live musical performances to welcoming Santa and capturing a free photo op, there's something for everyone. And, of course, Christmas carols will fill the air with holiday spirit.

What truly sets the market apart is its ongoing support for local South

Australian farmers and producers. Every purchase you make directly contributes to the livelihoods of these hardworking individuals, fostering a sense of community and sustainability.

By shopping at the market, you cast your vote of confidence in the quality of South Australian products, ensuring they continue to thrive.

2024 Memberships are now open. Sign up and enjoy a 10 percent discount year-round.



Adelaide Farmers' Market



For information, please visit: adelaidefarmersmarket.com.au

OFFICIAL
2023
ROYAL
ADELAIDE
WINE
SHOW
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FEATURING 8 TROPHY WINNERS
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MOST OUTSTANDING RED WINE IN SHOW





Events calendar *highlights*

Dec 2023

- 1-24 Santa's Wonderland
- 5-10 Crystal & Gem Expo

January 2024

- 6 Heaps Good Festival
- 20 Monster Trucks

February 2024

- 14-18 Let's Go Caravan & Camping Lifestyle Show

March 2024

- 6-7 ATSA Expo
- 21 Closing the Gap
- 23-24 Pool, Spa & Outdoor Living Expo

April 2024

- 2-7 Crystal & Gems Expo
- 11 Wtfuture
- 13-14 Pregnancy, Babies & Children's Expo
- 20-21 Adelaide Multicultural Eid Festival
- 25 Groovin' the Moo

May 2024

- 2-5 Autumn National Bridge Championship
- 3-5 Bowerbird Design Market
- 10 Foodbank Women of Influence
- 10-11 Adelaide Careers & Employment Expo
- 14 SecTech Roadshow
- 18-19 The Pet Show
- 25-26 Body Mind Psychic Expo

June 2024

- 1-2 Oz Comic-Con
- 1-2 Mega Toy Fair
- 5-30 Cirque du Soleil (extending to July 7)
- 8-10 Adelaide Roller Derby – Great Southern Slam

Weekly Events

Sunday: Adelaide Showground Farmers Market

For the most up-to-date information, please visit: adelaideshowground.com.au

At the time of print this information was correct.

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