



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 26 MARCH 2021, COMMENCING AT 11.30 AM

1. FINANCIAL MEMBERS

PRESENT

Mr AM Hardy (Chairman)
BTM Ashby, TE Ashby, KA Bennett, CA Bennett, HJ Bone, AL Bone, FA Brake, GR Brand, RW Burdon, RJ Butler, TSG Buxton, MB Camac, T Camac, BA Cay, RP Coleman, MLJ Cooper, TJ Donaldson, AR Duncan, JG Duncan AM, WH Duncan, PJ Elkin, SJ Fahey, N Feeney, RW Fewster, HC Findlay, KH Follett, DW Freer, MD Fullgrave, MC Gale, PS Gill OAM, JVE Gosse, NM Hallion, AR Hentschke, MN Hill-Smith, RJ Hunt, GP Hyde, TG James, AT Jones, P Karytinis, GA Klatt, C Knezevic, J Kuys, PL Laffer AM, CW Lessue, TW Linke, D McCauley, FJ McEvoy, BF McFarlane AM, RJ McFarlane, EM McGee, IA McGowan, K McIntyre, AJ Michael, J Middleton, DR Mutton JP, SG Nicholls, BC Octoman, G Octoman, G Pacitti, AS Pacitti, AM Piggott, R Pincombe, KE Porter, AJ Potter, JC Radcliffe AM, FTSE, DN Read, JW Rothwell, WJ Rowett, NL Ryan, SJ Ryan, C Sayer, G Schulz OAM, JE Schutz, ED Scott, MJD Scott ASM, OAM, WA Seppelt, MP Siebert, B Simmons, MK Smart, PP Smith, RL Snewin, KD Stables, GL Trengove, AAT Walsh, HM Wells, DP Wilson, PE Withers, RJ Wright, JW Young and JF Ziesing

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Messrs K Bains, RD Battams, OF Croser, IB Digby, RL Fiebiger, A Ford, H Herbst, M Hocking, K Holthouse, AJ Michael, DM Pettman, G Piggott, IB Sanders, PGC Smith, R Talbot, A Thompson, GR White, JW Rothwell (Chief Executive) and KH Freund (Executive Assistant)

3. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members, Councillors and Honorary Councillors present at the meeting and extended a special welcome to Mr Geoff Edwards from BDO Australia.

4. APOLOGIES

Councillors

TRS Baker, W Billings, MC Blenkiron, AG Burgess, WR Burgess, PO Button, V Cappelletto, DH Copping, LJ Day, MJ Doecke, BJ Draper, A Fletcher, G Follett, CW Francis, PW Godden, SE Green, JS Hall, RF Haynes, DJ Hubbard, SJ Kay, RL Liebelt, CL Liebich, MD Llewellyn, AJ Lock, BW Mahomet, BWA Redpath, SFJ Reidy, GT Reu, K Seppelt, DR Shannon, EK Shaw, TL Shone, LM Stapylton, CJ Thompson, AN Wadlow, CK Wandel, NS Wittwer and FJ Young

Honorary Councillors

JS Ayers, FT Beauchamp, BJ Beaumont, TW Bowden OAM, RA Bowyer, GPC Day OAM, DW Fechner, RG Fishlock, RW Hamdorf APM, JP, RJ Hedger, LC Jenkins OAM, RA Jenssen, CE Lienert OAM, RW Linn, JH Lloyd, AM Michael, AS Murray, TM Ranford, LC Richens, MF Robertson, KJ Seppelt AO, DK Squiers, CJ Tindall RFD, LL.B., MJ Wandel, MG Weston, AC Wilson, IL Young,

Honorary Life Members

CM Downer and RT Walsh AM

Members

R Starke OAM, R Templeman

5. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the the Annual General Meeting held on 4 September 2020, which had been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Moved: JVE Gosse
Seconded: HF Findlay

6. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY - including reports from Society Officers, Income Statements, Balance Sheet and Auditor's Report for the year ending 31 December 2020**

The Chairman presented a précis of the reports as published in the 2020 Annual Report:

“2020 was a year of considerable challenge for many organisations and individuals, including the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia. The cancellation of the Royal Show, due to the Covid pandemic, was an extremely difficult decision for all concerned, but particularly for the staff, councillors and committee members who work so tirelessly to stage the Show for all South Australians. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with the Royal Adelaide Show for their work during this difficult time, and for their enduring optimism, enthusiasm, and belief in the work of the Society.

Despite the cancellation of the Show and Covid restrictions in general, several competitions were able to go ahead, albeit in a modified format. The organisers and participants of these competitions were extremely pleased to see them continue, bringing a sense of regularity to a less-than-normal year and rewarding the considerable effort that many entrants put into competitions at the Show.

The Led Steers carcass competition was held at Tey's abattoir, with 109 steers judged and a presentation ceremony held at the Adelaide Showground on September 13 in the Goyder Mezzanine.

The School Merino Wethers Competition was successfully held at the Showground on September 9, thanks to the hard work of Merino SA, Society staff, and secondary students from across the State in adhering to Covid social distancing requirements. Celebrating its tenth year in 2020, the competition saw 70 teams from 37 schools compete in a range of events. A special mention to Riverton and District High School, who participated in their first School Merino Wethers Competition in 2020 thanks to a Show Society Foundation Scholarship.

Other competitions to proceed in 2020 included the Royal Adelaide Beer and Cider Awards, the Royal Adelaide Olive Awards, and Royal Adelaide Wine Show - one of the few wine shows in Australia to go ahead in 2020 due to Covid-19. Interestingly, the number of entries in the Wine Show increased by 200 on the previous year and was the highest number since 2012.

Keen to maintain the Show's profile amongst the public and supporters, Society staff did a wonderful job of putting together the 'Show@Home' initiative, supported by Primary Industries and Regions SA. This program was very effective in reminding the public about all the wonderful experiences on offer at the Show and promoting the importance of agriculture to South Australia. Launched on August 17, it featured a dedicated website with Show-related activities and information, a lift-out in the Sunday Mail, social media activity, online newsletters, and a Yellow Brick Road trail involving 18 local businesses and supported by Foodland. The initiative was a great success, the Show@Home website attracting 43,000 visitors and 110,000-page views over four weeks; Facebook posts reaching over 90,000 people; and daily live video content streamed on Facebook and YouTube attracting 58,000 views.

Several Covid-safe events were presented at the Showground in the latter part of the year, such as Science Alive, CarnEvil and Santa's Wonderland. Deemed an essential service, the Adelaide Showground Farmers' Market traded throughout the pandemic and was moved to the Stirling Angas pavilion accommodating bigger crowds. The opening of the new Adelaide Showground Caravan Park was brought forward to June and has recorded strong occupancy levels and glowing reviews.

During the non-events period of the pandemic year, senior management focused on developing a 5-year strategic plan to address the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on the Society's ongoing business.

Management and Board set strategies to ensure the Society's future viability, forward forecasts were analysed and detailed plans and processes put in place with the aim to bring Society operations back to pre-pandemic surplus levels within the next three to five years.

In the 2020 financial year the Society faced a significant challenge presented by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Overall, the Society recorded a surplus before depreciation of \$238,816. This result includes income from government grants of \$4,302,575.

Due to the substantial decrease in revenue generating business, the Society was eligible for the JobKeeper Wage Subsidy and the JobKeeper extension, with funding of \$1,298,400 recorded in the financial year and was also eligible for \$100,000 under the Federal Boosting Cashflows for Employers Stimulus Package. The Society was successful in securing a Federal Grant of \$2,504,175 under the Supporting Agricultural Shows Grant Program as well as \$400,000 State Grant through the Community and Jobs Support Fund. In addition, the Society applied for, and received, a full rebate on council rates for the 2020/2021 year, representing a saving of approximately \$500,000 over the 12-months period.

The Society's financiers confirmed their support, establishing appropriate financing facilities to ensure the organisation will continue to operate viably into the future.

The Society is committed to sound financial management which allows it to fulfil its Charter and maximise its contribution to the success and promotion of Primary Industries in South Australia through the staging of events and rewarding excellence.

Finally, on behalf of the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society Board, I would like to thank our staff, sponsors, volunteers, committee members, exhibitors and media partners for their support in 2020."

Moved: AM Hardy

Seconded: MP Siebert and carried.

7. APPOINTMENT OF PATRON

The Chairman informed the meeting that as the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO had accepted his appointment as Patron for the term of his office, it was not necessary to formally elect him as Patron at this meeting.

8. ELECTION OF SECTIONAL COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive declared that as no qualifying nominations had been received for Council by 26 February 2021, all current Councillors had been re-elected for a further term to the next AGM in March 2022.

9. **RESOLUTIONS**

The Executive Committee recommended that Dr Tony Robinson, representing the Australian Wine Research Institute be appointed ex-officio member of the Council to serve on the Wine Committee for the period to March 2022 AGM.

The term of all other Ex-Officio representatives was extended to the AGM in March 2022, a total period of 18 months.

Moved: AM Hardy
Seconded: NL Ryan

10. **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR
FOR 2021 ACCOUNTS**

Mr Michael Siebert moved that the firm of BDO Australia be appointed to conduct the audit of the Society's financial accounts for 2021.

Seconded: TJ Donaldson and carried

11. **MEETING CLOSED**

The President thanked all members for attending and their support given to the Society and declared the meeting closed at 11.50 am.

CONFIRMED:

Chairman

DATE _____