



**ROYAL AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2019, COMMENCING AT 11.30 AM**

**1. FINANCIAL MEMBERS**

**PRESENT**

Mr RJ Hunt (Chairman)

BTM Ashby, TE Ashby, RD Battams, CA Bennett, HJ Bone, AL Bone, FA Brake, GR Brand, RW Burdon, AG Burgess, TSG Buxton, MB Camac, T Camac, BA Cay, AJ Clarke OAM, AFSM, RP Coleman, MLJ Cooper, OF Croser, GPC Day, MJ Doecke, TJ Donaldson, CM Downer, BJ Draper, AR Duncan, JG Duncan AM, WH Duncan, N Feeney, RW Fewster, HC Findlay, KH Follett, CW Francis, DW Freer, G Fuller, MD Fullgrabe, PS Gill OAM, PW Godden, JVE Gosse, RW Hamdorf APM, JP, AM Hardy, RR Hart, NS Henderson, DJ Hubbard, GP Hyde, TG James, LC Jenkins OAM, P Karytinis, C Knezevic, J Kuys, PL Laffer AM, KJ Laurie, CW Lessue, TW Linke, RW Linn, JH Lloyd, AJ Lock, BW Mahomet, FJ McEvoy, BF McFarlane, EM McGee, IA McGowan, AJ Michael, J Middleton, DR Mutton JP, SG Nicholls, BC Octoman, G Octoman, G Pacitti, B Parker, DM Pettman, AM Piggott, R Pincombe, AJ Potter, JC Radcliffe AM, FTSE, DN Read, SFJ Reidy, GT Reu, JW Richards, WJ Rowett, NL Ryan, IB Sanders, C Sayer, G Schulz, JE Schutz, WA Seppelt, PK Seppelt, EK Shaw, MP Siebert, NP Simpson, PGC Smith, PP Smith, RL Snewin, GL Trengove, AN Wadlow, AAT Walsh, CK Wandel, GR White, AC Wilson, DP Wilson, PE Withers, RJ Wright, FJ Young, JF Ziesing

**2. IN ATTENDANCE**

Messrs RA Bowyer, DM Cain PSM, IB Digby, CL Ekers, H Herbst, K Holthouse, RA Jenssen, J LePlastrier, K McGrath, DM Pettman, K Porter, LC Richens, MF Robertson, MG Weston, 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 Andrew Bruce from BDO Australia.

**4. APOLOGIES**

**Councillors**

Messrs TRS Baker, KA Bennett, MC Blenkiron, RJ Butler, PO Button, MLJ Cooper, DH Copping, LJ Day, MJ Doecke, AR Duncan, RL Fiebiger, A Fletcher, G Follett, MC Gale, SE Green, JS Hall, NM Hallion, RF Haynes, AR Hentschke, SJ Kay, RL Liebelt, CL Liebich, RJ McFarlane, K McIntyre, JW Pitchford, BWA Redpath, SJ Ryan, EK Shaw, DK Squiers and CJ Thompson

**Honorary Councillors**

Messrs JS Ayers, BJ Beaumont, TW Bowden OAM, JG Donaldson, DL East, DW Fechner, RG Fishlock, CE Lienert OAM, BW Lockier, RK McFarlane, AM Michael, AS Murray, TM Ranford, MJD Scott ASM, OAM, KJ Seppelt AO, MK Smart, CJ Tindall RFD, LL.B., MJ Wandel, IL Young and JW Young

**Honorary Life Members**

Messrs GT Campbell AM, CR Gramp AM, The Hon M Jackson-Nelson AC, CVO, MBE, NH Minchin, The Hon Sir EJ Neal AC, CVO, The Hon KJ Scarce AC CSC RANR (Rtd) and RT Walsh AM

5. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the the Annual General Meeting held on 23 March 2018, which had been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Moved: TJ Donaldson  
Seconded: AMPiggott

6. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY - including President's Report, Chairman's Report, Chief Executive's Report, Treasurer's Report, Income Statements, Balance Sheet and Auditor's Report for the year ending 31 December 2018**

The Chairman presented a précis of the reports as published in the 2018 Annual Report:

“As South Australia’s largest public event, the Show makes a strong economic contribution to South Australia, and the 2018 Show recorded an estimated gross economic impact of more than \$193 million. The Carnival and Showbag sections reported strong trade and slight increases in revenue, though tight economic conditions contributed to a slight drop in revenue from commercial exhibitors. In contrast, revenue from the Goyder Food & Wine area, the Pet Centre and Market Bazaar were all up on the previous year.

Show-goers responded well to the food and drink offering at this year’s Show, with total catering revenue up by 9%. The spend per head on food and beverage products grew by 3%, representing 13 years of continual growth under the O’Brien Catering Group. Also pleasing was an increase in corporate catering revenue of over 20%, largely due to an increase in the number of functions held at the Show. Likewise, retail food and drink sales increased 8.6%.

In 2018 the Show launched a major new national prize – the Grains and Fodder Innovation Awards, designed to recognise growers across Australia who have redeveloped their farming practices to adapt to change, increase product and/or demonstrate sustainability. The Grain Innovation Award was won by Tom Robinson of Hoyleton for his efforts to improve soil health using cover crops and companion cropping, while the Fodder Innovation Award went to Brenton McCrae of Kadina for developing a stormwater harvest project in conjunction with the local council.

The Royal Adelaide Show was delighted to host Agricultural Shows of Australia’s (ASA) Rural Ambassador Award, won by Sophie Crooke Lay from Victoria. In addition to the Rural Ambassador final, ASA conducted the National Young Judges Championships including eight national finals; dairy and dairy handlers, beef cattle and paraders, merino sheep, fleece, meat sheep and poultry. The young competitors, aged from 16 to 29, all performed admirably and did a great job of promoting agriculture to the show-going public.

There was strong participation from the feature breeds across the livestock sections including Jersey (Dairy Cattle), Speckle Park (Beef Cattle) and Border Leicester (Sheep). The feature grain for 2018 was Durum and horticulture showcased the Camellia as the feature flower. Special displays and interactive exhibits for each of the feature breeds did an effective job of promoting the Show’s competitive sections to the public, and the high standard of entries they attract.

Despite both economic and climatic challenges faced by the farming community in recent times, the Show continues to be strongly supported by the State’s agricultural industry. Many farmers and exhibitors value the opportunity to inform show-goers - particularly children - about the vital role of agriculture in our community. Likewise, the Show plays an important role in teaching young people about where their food comes from, and the myriad career opportunities available in modern agriculture.

Shiraz dominated the competition at the 2018 Royal Adelaide Wine Show, with a quarter of the 2,712 entries being of this variety and 20 gold medals awarded. The Max Schubert Trophy for Most Outstanding Red Wine in Show was won by Bleasdale Vineyards for their 2016 Generations Shiraz,

while the Most Outstanding Wine of Provenance category was won by Leasingham's Classic Clare Shiraz (2016, 2009, 2005).

The Adelaide Showground continues to be one of South Australia's most popular venues attracting an estimated 650,000 visitors to a total of 245 events, outside the Royal Adelaide Show. It remains the home of Adelaide's major consumer focussed exhibitions, growing the number of music events and primary exam venue for the University of South Australia and University of Adelaide.

The venue's high recognition with the Adelaide public continues to support consumer events across a broad range of subject areas with major events such as Let's Go Caravan & Camping Lifestyle Show, Adelaide's three Home shows, the Supanova Comic Con & Gaming Expo, and the contemporary Bowerbird Bazaar.

2018 saw a return to significant music events with three single day events – Groovin' the Moo, RnB Friday and SpinOff – attracting large audiences to the Adelaide Showground, our well-maintained facilities providing safety and a great patron experience. In addition, the Adelaide Showground hosted several events for the Adelaide Fringe and the Festival's world class production of Brahms's Human Requiem.

The Showground's use of its historic buildings has become more prevalent with the original Brick Dairy now accommodating the Adelaide Beer & BBQ festival in July and a regular fashion, art and craft market, Gilles @ the Grounds. The weekly Adelaide Showground Farmers Market continues to attract consistently strong crowds enjoying fresh South Australian farm produce each week.

Amongst the crowded Adelaide Showground calendar, community and charitable events are still accommodated, sponsoring of the Variety Club Christmas function (3,000 people), Cancer Council's Relay for Life and Smith Family Christmas gifts, support for Indian & Muslim cultural festivals and agricultural events aimed at young people involved with sheep, dairy and beef cattle and equestrian.

The year ahead sees the presentation in September of World Routes 2019, the international aviation event won by South Australia and attracting up to 3,000 international visitors to the Adelaide Showground.

Committed to giving back to the South Australian community, the Society again provided over \$325,000 worth of Show tickets and associated items, including ride, showbag and meal vouchers, to charities and community groups. In addition, the Show Brunch raised over \$13,000 for the Love Your Sister Charity, which supports breast cancer research, and the Country Women's Association raised considerable funds for their Emergency Aid Fund. Show-goers were encouraged to support the Buy A Bale Foundation by making a coin donation at Show Kiosks, or by bringing a can of non-perishable food to donate to Foodbank. The Society also entered into a partnership with the Rosefield Community Shed by providing a new home-base, which involved the group moving into the Farmyard Nursery in exchange for working on various projects around the Showground, including restoration of the historic cart in the Old Ram Shed.

The operational result of \$949,538 after adjusting for investment results, amortisation of government grants and depreciation is detailed in the report. Depreciation for the year of \$3,488,176 includes \$1,046,181 relating to assets funded by government grants. The Society continues to achieve a positive operational result in challenging economic conditions.

The operational result before depreciation is reflected in the positive cashflow from operating activities set out in the financial statements. Net cash outflows from investing activities during the year reflects the cashflow

impact of the acquisition of two key properties adjacent to the Showground and new components of the Society's long-term Master Plan. After recognising cash inflows through borrowings, the Society recorded a small net cash increase for the year.

Revenue for the year increased by 6% in comparison to 2017, whilst expenditure, excluding unrealised losses on investments and depreciation also increased by 6%. The current results reflect a weak consumer economy with public spending patterns impacting on the viability of third-party public events held at the Showground although the Show continued to provide a strong result.

Capital expenditure for the year included the acquisition of 10-12 Goodwood Road and 99 Rose Terrace (\$4.5M), two properties referred to above and new light towers in the main arena (\$0.8M).

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 2018."

Moved: RJ Hunt

Seconded: RL Snewin 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 nominations had been received for Council by 22 February 2019, all Councillors had been re-elected for the ensuing year.

## **9. RESOLUTIONS**

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, that:

- For the Agri Food & Commerce Committee
  - Ms Catherine Sayer, representing Food SA
- For the Art, Craft, Cookery & Technology Committee
  - Mrs Claire Bennett, representing Primary & Secondary Schools
- For the Beer, Cider & Spirit Committee
  - Mr Warwick Billings, Vice President, representing Cider Australia
  - Mr Richard Angove, representing St Agnes Distrillery
- For the Dairy Products Committee
  - Mrs Karen McIntyre, representing the Dairy Industry Association of SA
  - Mr Sean Kay, Director, Cheese Partners
  - Mr Matt Cooper, Sales Manager nominated by DiRossi Foods
- For the Diverse Farming Committee
  - Mr Chris Francis, representing the Blacksmiths & Farriers Association of SA
  - Mrs Kerry Porter, representing the Australian Alpaca Association (SA Branch)
- For the Dog Committee
  - Mr Brian Parker, President, representing the South Australian Canine Association
- For the Horticulture Committee
  - Mr Trevor Camac, representing the Orchid Club of SA

- Mrs Susie Green, Chief Executive, representing the Apple & Pear Growers Association
- Mr Mark Doecke, representing Citrus Australia – SA Region
- Mr Vido Cappelletto, nominated by TAFE SA
- For the Wine Committee
  - Mr Peter Godden, representing the Australian Wine Research Institute

be appointed ex-officio members of the Council for the ensuing 12 months.

Moved: RJ Hunt

Seconded by: N Feeney

**10. APPOINTMENT OF  
AUDITOR FOR 2019  
ACCOUNTS**

Mr Bob Snewin moved that the firm of BDO Australia be appointed as the Society's Auditor for the year 2019, at a fee to be negotiated with the Board of Management.

Seconded by: BF McFarlane and carried

**11. MEETING CLOSED**

The President thanked all members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 11.45 am.

CONFIRMED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

DATE \_\_\_\_\_