

HELENSVILLE

AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter for our Members

Issue N° 3 - August 2013

AGM

Among other things the 2013 AGM saw a new membership fee voted in, Yvonne Hilton awarded an Outstanding Service Award and a final farewell to Gaylene Ashton and Marion Stutz
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Welcome!

Welcome to our new-look newsletter and also Sorrel King to our Executive and Caroline Anderson to the role of Show Manager/ Executive Manager. This year marked the passing of an era with Gaylene Ashton formally retiring from the Association and Marion Stutz also leaving (although we know they haven't gone far and we've already roped them into helping on Show day!). Gaylene made the show what it is today, working tirelessly for the Association for some 15 years, while Marion carried on the tradition for the last two years, injecting her own unique personality into it. We thank Gaylene and Marion for all their hard work and wish them all the best in their new ventures, and extend a warm welcome to Sorrel and Caroline.



View of the tower with our new tenants, South Suffolk sheep, in the background.

Graeme Bradly (Equestrian), while outgoing Secretary/ Show Manager, Marion Stutz, provided an overview of the show and the 2012/2013 year.

The general consensus was that the 2013 Show was a positive one, with sections for the most part running seamlessly and the competition of a high level. The perfect weather meant the crowd could take advantage of all the entertainment and stalls on offer, although everyone was keen to avoid a future clash with Dargarville Field Days. New ideas for the Show and avenues for the Association were

discussed, and a new Executive member, Sorrel King, was voted in.

Outstanding Service Award

Yvonne Hilton was nominated for an Outstanding Service Award for 24 years of unstinting assistance and volunteering with the Association, and unparalleled skill with the microphone! Shona Addison paid tribute to Yvonne's skill as MC at the Show, noting that Hilty's beaming face and lively patter has always been a welcome sight and sound and will be a hard act to follow. Yvonne's nomination was unanimously seconded, with the presentation of the award to be held at the 2014 Show. Our thanks to Yvonne for so many years of service and we look forward to seeing you at the Show in the future, as a visitor.

Membership Subs Increase

It was decided at the AGM that the cost of membership will increase to \$30 per annum for 2014/2015 to cover the increase in administration costs.

Utilisation of the Showgrounds

How to better utilise the showgrounds was discussed alongside the issue of how to develop the current car park into a multi-usage arena. The Committee gratefully acknowledged Auckland Council's help with ground maintenance.

AGM 2013 News

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 10 July, and despite being a cold blustery night, was well attended. Full reports on the individual elements of the 2013 show were presented by Hilary Bott (Indoor) Anne Holst (Livestock), John Glasson (Trade),

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A year ago in this room I was duly elected to this position from a very trusting Executive, the nomination for which initially seemed like some sort of prank. From my appointment to the Executive in 2010 I had attended every meeting (a fact which I had no difficulty bragging about), however due to a conflict with my studies I could not attend in May last year. When my father Richard got home that night I asked him about the meeting, to which he replied: "Shona nominated you for President - and Rick seconded it." My initial response to that was not shock, nor humility for that matter, but a reminder of the consequences of missing a meeting.

Following this I was assured that if I accepted I would have the full support of the Executive, an assurance that has rung true countless times over the past twelve months. I have heard many tales of executive committees throughout the country that are the epitome of an "old boys club" with members who bicker amongst themselves and turn away youth who wish to be a part of an A&P association. The Helensville Executive represents the complete antithesis of such an organisation; one that not only welcomes youth but also encourages them to get involved because they know it is the only way to ensure the continuation of the A&P movement. I unabashedly single out my father on this matter, for without his encouragement and support, I would not be here this evening. His wise and balanced opinion on many showing matters has been a crutch to me in matters of uncertainty throughout my term, for which there have been more than I care to admit.

I would like to give special mention to a few people here tonight who have made many voluntary, thankless contributions to the show that were not asked or required of them. Firstly I thank Rick, for without him we probably would not have had a show this year. Rick's experience with bureaucracy and council matters was invaluable when sifting through pages and pages of council paperwork on health and safety and our liquor license just to name a few, all in time for council approval. It was a very close call and I doubt anyone could have done it as well as Rick. I would also thank him for his readiness to jump on a tractor and roll the grounds again and again, which from

personal experience takes many hours of work. Secondly I thank Shona as my Vice President and wise councilor on many occasions. Shona is a consistent hard worker who only just manages to find time to sleep between her many hours of dedication to the show and Executive and her full time job. She was the one responsible for the award citations for all recipients at this year's show, which I know is a difficult task indeed. Her intelligence, experience and thorough consideration for all things show related are hard to match and it is a pleasure working with her. Thirdly, I thank Graeme Close. Graeme has been staying on our grounds for a few years now and runs a fishing game for kids at Northern shows. He is always willing to help Marion with anything in the office, including pest eradication and the occasional flood and helping Richard and I sell hay, not to mention being our de facto security guard and gatekeeper. Finally, I thank our dedicated team of horse measurers, who are: Hec Aikenhead, Graeme Bradly, Shona and Courtney Addison, Rick and Julie Croft, Sharon and Sorrel King, Lorraine Macdonald and Alan Tonner. You all generate much needed income for the show, while also providing a community service that all horse owners require. You put up with criticism and jarring personalities that need not be put up with and all on a volunteer basis. I thank you for the time and effort you put in, particularly Graeme Bradly who is renown for going on special call outs for the show.

In September last year I attended a meeting in Fielding that gathered youth from all districts in the country to form a youth council for the RAS. It is essentially a succession plan to the RAS movement for which I am the northern representative. The council is comprised of some incredibly talented and keen youth who show a lot of potential for the future. We are self-funded and have about four meetings each year, including the RAS AGM in June and the Royal Show in Fielding in December. We have also scheduled a lunch meeting with the Governor General later this month. We aim to create district councils of youth by reaching out to as many shows as possible as volunteers in order to encourage more youth to get involved. We have had overwhelming support for the initiative from the Northern District, of which Shona and I are Executive Councilors. I aim to bridge the gap between shows and districts over the coming years, all the while encouraging more youth to get involved by way of example.

For many here tonight this meeting marks the end of an era of sorts, as Gaylene Ashton, Marion Stutz, Yvonne Hilton, Hilary Bott and Chris Clark all step down from their respective positions. Gaylene, having served 15 years as arguably the best secretary, treasurer and show manager in the country, agreed to a two-year transitional period with Marion, who has been an absolute delight and pleasure working with over the past two years. Both taught me much about my position and were always available to answer any of my many questions and offer their support should I need it. This year Hilty and Hilary enjoyed their last show as show announcer and Chief Indoor Steward respectively. They have both played vital roles in our show for many years and I know it won't be quite the same without them. I wish Andy Holst and Megan Glasson the best of luck in filling the rather large shoes that these two ladies have left. After five years as President in two separate terms I farewell Chris from the Executive. Chris has played an integral part in the association since before the inception of the committee system and certainly before my time. His role as Immediate Past President this year has been one that I have looked to for insight and knowledge. I thank you all for your years of service, I wish all of you the best in your future endeavors and I look forward to seeing all five of you in February in slightly less demanding roles.

As a sign of the strength of our community and our association I am delighted to announce that we have two new members joining us in official positions: Caroline Anderson and Sorrel King. When Marion informed us that she wasn't staying we had to act quickly and find someone who could not only take over Marion's position, but Gaylene's too, as daunting as that was! In true show spirit, Shona, Anne and Rachel generously offered to spearhead the recruitment process. Rachel's previous experience with the role and her background in general were invaluable to us and without these three I doubt we could have found Caroline. Caroline's intelligence, professionalism and positive aspirations for the Show were what made her stand out from the crowd and we believe that with her, Helensville A&P is in good hands. Sorrel has been competing in the equestrian section for some years now and despite her horse-riding accident at our show, she stuck with us and became one of our valued horse measurers.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
CONT.**


I am delighted to welcome more young blood into our organisation and in particular, our Executive Committee, one third of which is now under 25. I trust that you will all make Caroline and Sorrel feel as welcome as you did for Courtney and myself.

For our 111th show this year we had hoped to boost the turnout by appearing in both the Helensville 150th and Christmas parades as the Grove Diggers featuring Rick on the back of a ute. Needless to say, the crowd loved them and their country covers, which made a return at our show.

The grounds on show week were perhaps the best I have ever seen, and full credit goes to the team of volunteers who put the work in all year long. Further credit goes to the Auckland Council, who despite their reluctance in previous years, helped out enormously this year. I look forward to a fruitful relationship with the council over the coming years, the most recent of which saw our gate 2 driveway widened for two lanes of large vehicles at once. I would thank Richard and Tommy Grace for their assistance in securing Council support.

I was very fortunate to have the unusual luxury of being assured it would not rain on show day, so we could all sleep easy on Friday night. However, despite the amazing weather, gate numbers were slightly down and although the grounds appeared to be packed, the car park begged to differ, which one could attribute to the multitude of competing events on that weekend. John Key opened the show where we presented awards to Adelia Hackett, Jackie Milina, Thelma Faulkner, Hilary Bott and Richard Bradly, the last of which was a secret to all. From the public perspective the show went off without a hitch, a fact that amazes me every year given the last minute dash we always find ourselves in. I invite our Chief Stewards and Show Manager for their more detailed reports on show day later in the meeting.

I thank Marion, Gaylene, the Executive, our Chief Stewards, our members and our volunteers for all coming together for Helensville's largest annual event. I have thoroughly enjoyed this year as President and look forward to the next twelve months.


Jordan Bradly
 President
 Helensville A&P Association

Suggestions and Ideas

We're always on the look out for feedback and new ideas. If you have a story or something you'd like to share with other members let us know - just drop us a line or email.



Horse Measuring

The season has started...

The first horse measure of the season was held on Sunday 11 August. Horse measuring is available at the Showgrounds between 09:00 and 12:00 on the following dates:

- 2013**
 8 September
 13 October
 10 November
 8 December



- 2014**
 12 January
 2 February (last measure prior to 2014 Helensville A & P Show)

On these days simply turn up! The cost is \$15 per horse. To make an appointment outside these days, or for inquiries about horse measuring, phone Graeme Bradly on 09 420 8632. A special measure is \$40, while a life certificate is \$75.

Northern Region Show Season

- Bay of Islands** 9 November 2013
Clevedon 9 - 10 November 2013
Whangarei 6 - 8 December 2013
Kaikohe 11 January 2014
Warkworth 25 - 26 January 2014
North Kaipara 1 February 2014
Northern Wairoa (Araphohue) 8 February 2014
North Hokianga (Broadwood) 15 February 2014
Franklin (Pukekohe) 15 - 16 February 2014
HELENSVILLE 22 February 2014
Kaitiia & Districts 22 - 23 February 2014
Kumeu 8 - 9 March 2014
Auckland - The Easter Show 17 - 21 April 2014

Our People

Part of a series introducing and paying tribute to some of the people behind the Show.

Jack (86) and **Maisie** (91) **Hurst** know a thing or two about miniature animals and A & P shows. The couple with their mini-donkeys have provided a much-loved addition at some 20 Helensville shows (and will be there next year), with Maisie also remembering riding ponies at the show when a child. While they've recently called it quits for the Easter show - to which they've been going for 60 years - that doesn't mean they're slowing down. Instead, this year Maisie and Jack have decided to open their farm for visits, allowing children and the elderly to come and meet their collection of alpacas and miniature horses, cattle (they're breeding Belted Galloways) and, of course, donkeys. They and their animals are also continuing to fundraise for Daffodil Day. Plus Jack's still working in town several days a week.

Maisie and Jack bred arabians and then miniature horses before they got into donkeys. They were the first to import mini-donkeys to Australasia, flying them "first-class" from America 12 years ago. Each donkey definitely has its own distinct personality. Maisie recalls that at one Helensville Show, their donkey Marty Brown (who has a bit of an acquisition impulse) stealthily stole brushes and other items from the competition pens. Marty didn't have the carry-through a proper thief though, instead placing the purloined objects neatly on the walkway to be reclaimed by their rightful owners!

Maisie and Jack's equine love affair has passed to their children, all 7 of whom are riders. We hope to see them all for many years to come. Thank you Jack, Maisie, and your animals for all your help over the years! You truly are an inspiration.

Honorary Appointees

- Hec Aitkenhead - Patron**
Cherie McRobbie - Vice Patron
Kaipara Medical Centre - Medical Officers
Helensville Veterinary Service - Veterinary Officers
Sellars & Co - Solicitors

Executive Committee

- Jordan Bradly — President**
Shona Addison — Vice President
Gabrielle Cornelius — Junior Vice President
Courtney Addison
Rick Croft
Julie Croft
Anne Holst
Sorrel King

In Appreciation

Thank you to all our sponsors for 2012/2013 for supporting us - we hope to see you again in 2013/2014.

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Helensville Veterinary Services have been the Honorary Vets at the AMP show since the practice started in the 1960's, and over the last 25 years that has largely meant me!



My family moved to Helensville in 1975 from an urban background. They bought a five acre block, got a house cow, a small flock of sheep, some pigs and chooks. They also got heavily involved in the show. My mother and sisters regularly competed in the indoor sections and we always attended the "biggest day in Helensville".

Since returning to work in Helensville 28 years ago I always attend the show if I am in town on the day. It is a great opportunity for me to catch up with my local farmers and other clients, My family always enjoy the day as well.

My veterinary career started when we moved to Helensville in 1975 and became involved in farming. As a 15 year-old I suddenly got the opportunity to tinker with tractors (a Ferguson 24), I assembled an Australian windmill (the biggest macarno set ever) and still remember hanging onto the top of it with a spirit level getting it vertical while my father adjusted the height with a bottlejack under one of the legs. Unfortunately I was so keen on working outside that I did little school work so I did not get the best marks in 7th form. However, I took a year off milking cows and then went off to vet school at Massey. My first job was at Ruatoria on the East Coast doing sheep and beef cattle work with lots of station horses. After two years there a position came up in Helensville. I have been here ever since.

I still enjoy rural veterinary work and getting out and dealing with farmers and livestock. Veterinary science has been good to me.

Mark Anderson MVSc

**SAVE THE DATE! November Trivial Pursuits
Fundraiser Night
Details to follow.**

Contact

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