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Association website www.bahpa.org.au Royal Bathurst Show website www.bathurstshow.com.au

Office hours Tuesday—Thursday 9.00am—5.00pm

Show Council

Pres. P Elbourne Snr V. Pres. S Farraway V. Pres. C Colley Treas. M Irvine, Councillors G Baxter, J Cox, B Hickey, B Kenworthy, C McPhee, C Morgan, J Small, K Small, K Stapleton, W Tisdell, G Toole, V Wilson. **BRC Delegates:** Crs M Coote, J Jennings.

Honorary Life Members

WE Cartwright, CJ English, CL Ferguson, MJ Garment OAM, ME Hargans, B Hickey, ML Parlett, K Snell, WW Thompson, AF Toole, RK Wood



Bathurst Show c.1890's: Bathurst Show showing the Howard Pavilion (erected 1879) prior to the erection of the Trevitt (erected 1897). Great activity around agricultural machinery then as now. Of interest is the now altered front entrance to the Howard Pavilion. This is one of our few early images of the Show.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

The Bathurst AH&P Association wishes all of its members & friends a safe & happy Christmas and as we lead into Summer after a very warm and dry Spring we also hope that we all get just the rain we need and more importantly, exactly where we need it.

It was sad to hear today that one of our long term members has passed away and it is appropriate that we all remember the long and widespread community involvement of former Alderman & Councillor Les Wardman.

On a positive note, the association has done well again in 2013; we had a good Show, we met our budgets, we introduced some great new initiatives (with more to come) and we slowly, but surely continued our improvements set in motion under the leadership of former President Sam Farraway just 3 years ago, of how we achieve our

associations objectives.

We aren't just here to run a Show, but that is our primary activity. We are here to continue to promote and advocate our regional agriculture, industry and rural life. Everything we do has to be measured by our attention to those ideals.

In your membership letters mailed out with this Bulletin, we have said that we can all be proud of being part of the oldest community, charitable organisation in the region and the largest, longest running community event in the region.

Our plans for 2014 are well underway. The 146th Royal Bathurst Show on 2-4 May 2014 is front of mind. Remember that we also conduct a full day of Local & Pony Club equestrian events on the Thursday prior to the main Show and you are most welcome to come

along and watch (or even volunteer to assist).

Membership renewals are due, and we wanted to get them out earlier but were held up by other urgent business in grant applications, the AGM and getting our commercial exhibitor renewals for 2014 underway. We apologise for any inconvenience and will aim to get them out earlier next year.

Please also be aware of our need for volunteers and in particular Stewards. The Pavilion needs good people to step up and help with the running of the various sections, and every part of the show could be helped with eager volunteers. All you have to do is call the office, or email us to start the process.

Most importantly keep in mind over Christmas that the best way we can support local agriculture and keep us farming is at the supermarket or shop counter.



Welcome to the Summer edition of the BAH&PA Bulletin.

We have received so many calls and so much positive feedback regarding the Bulletin, it really is worth the effort to get the message out in such a positive way.

We are really pleased everyone is keen to keep up to date with everything that is happening in the Association.

This year's AGM was well supported and saw the adoption of a number of procedural revisions to the Constitution. The most important was the alteration of the Junior Membership age limits from 16 to 18 to bring them in line with our voting restrictions and the rest of society.

The AGM also saw outgoing President Sam Faraway complete his 3rd term and despite many of us wishing Sam could continue in the role, under the current constitution he was ineligible to stand for re-election. The debate around the possible changing of this rule continues and our current Treasurer has penned an open letter published in this Bulletin opening a discussion on positive changes. We welcome your feedback.

I was proud to receive the support of the membership and am humbled by my election as President and the chance to fill a position of such importance and frankly some very big shoes left by Sam.



Paula Elbourne, President

I know that many of you will have already spoken with Sam and congratulated him on completing the maximum term and for his tremendous work for the association. Sam remains on Show Council and the Executive Committee filling the very important senior Vice President position.

We also reported positive financial results, delivering a close to budget modest surplus again, the third in a row since 2005.

We are only six months out from the Royal Bathurst Show 2014 so the Show Council and the Office staff are already well under way with preparations, updating schedules, booking in commercial sites and organising special attractions. We have a great team ready to make the 2014 Royal Bathurst Show the biggest and best in the west!

Membership renewals are about to go out with this newsletter so don't forget to send them back in and encourage others to consider becoming part of this wonderful Association.

We are all looking forward to the Association Christmas Picnic on Sunday 15th December at 11am - 2pm. All members are welcome to come down and say hello, have a bite to eat and catch up with other members. We will have sausage sandwiches, salads and some light refreshments. You are more than welcome to bring a picnic as well. If the weather holds the way it has been shaping, it will be great to get out in the warmth and enjoy the best part of the Showground. It should be a great fun day. We will have kids activities and some entertainment to round off the day as part of our Christmas Markets.

BAH&PA SHOWGROUND MARKETS

The CHRISTMAS BAH&PA Showground Markets are on Sunday 15 December from 9am to 1pm. A great opportunity to get some locally produced craft, tasty food and produce gifts just in time for the big event.

What better way to give a gift that is grown and made locally. The market stalls are growing more varied each month and it is worth the effort to come and support them and the association.

Don't forget that from 11am we will also be hosting our ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS PICNIC and you are all welcome to come along and have chat, a bit of fun and something to eat and a Chrissie drink.



The constitution - An opinion on tenure restrictions for the President

Dear members,

As you may be aware, at the recent AGM a proposal to remove the current tenure restriction of three years on the term of AH&P President was tabled, and defeated. This constitutional rule is a restriction that I believe is impractical and unnecessary.

I will be revisiting this matter to ensure the constitution is changed. Prior to the AGM, I initiated discussion on the matter in good faith, a number of times, at a number of formal and informal Executive and Show Council meetings and gatherings, and on none of those occasions did anyone raise objections. I was, therefore, concerned when such fervent objection to the proposal was raised at the AGM, as nobody brought any concerns or issues to me (as the originator of discussions on the matter) prior to the AGM.

I accept that the membership of the AH&P will now be unlikely to ever vote in favour of a proposal to remove a restriction on the tenure of the President. I would point out though, that if we're going to limit the tenure of the President constitutionally, we really should also enshrine the same restrictions on the tenure of all elected Executive (and possibly Show Council) roles.

I have also done some research on community and corporate governance models. If we are going to persist with a constitutional limitation on this (or any other) role, it should be a practical, sensible and workable limit that exists for the right reasons.

To this end, I would suggest we consider a tenure restriction, consistent with many mutual not-for-profit organisations such as Skillset, West-

fund and many Credit Unions, on the length of time ANY member of the executive can serve consecutively, regardless of their role. This would mean no natural person could serve on the executive for more than the stated maximum term. A break of a defined period (usually 12 months, or 'the time between two AGMs') would re-set the tenure period and allow a person to continue their involvement after such a break is served.

The same rule could also be applied to Show Council – After all, if the purpose of the role is to prevent any single person or group 'taking control' then it's only fitting that the same rule should apply to Show Council as well as the Executive.

This type of rule, applied to Executive and/or Show Council, would address the valid concerns raised by Honourary Life member Marg Hargans at the AGM (the example given was a 30-odd year reign of a nice but ineffective President slowly killing off a Show), and it would encourage sensible governance renewal. It would also achieve exactly what the 'Fixed Term of President' rule was intended to achieve.

Please give some consideration to this idea. We could set it at any number of years, but I would not be willing to support any fixed tenure period of less than 10 years.

Please also remember that ANY person wishing to be President (or to hold any other executive role) needs to be re-elected constitutionally BY OUR MEMBERS anyway. Our members are our ultimate limit-setters, and all of us serve at their discretion anyway.

Matthew Irvine, Hon. Treasurer

BITS & PIECES

CENTRAL TABLELANDS LOCAL LAND SERVICES which will commence operations on 1 January 2014 replacing the LHPA has had the appointed positions filled. Former state National Party member and Minister for Agriculture Ian Armstrong has been appointed chairman and he will be accompanied by Ian Rogan of Millthorpe, Pip Job, linked to Molong/Cumnock and Reg Kidd a former mayor of Orange. Bathurst is not represented. Producers need to make sure they are aware of the details for elections of nominees for election of remaining board members which will be conducted in February 2014.

GRAINCORP, late welcome news that the Federal Treasurer, Joe Hockey, did not approve the sale of Graincorp. After considerable lobbying by NSW Farmers Association and other organisations it's clear that a positive message was successfully heard by the legislators. We're sure the debate concerning the need for Australia to retain ownership of our key strategic agricultural assets will continue.

STEWARD & VOLUNTEER TRAINING - Don't forget that on March 1st next year there will be another opportunity for 14-18 year olds to undertake our Junior Steward Training & that we will run our inaugural Senior Steward Training day on the same day. This will finish up with a 'Bush' Dance and some good family fun.

VOLUNTEERS - we are always on the lookout for volunteers for our events and to work in the office. There are plenty of jobs and it can be hard work but lots of fun. We have roles for anyone from 14-85.

FACTS ABOUT THE ROLE & TERMS OF THE PRESIDENT

Under our constitution and modern governance models the President really is the first-among-equals.

The only effective additional power or authority that they possess is to call meetings, to chair any meeting at which they are present and in the event of an 'equality of votes' on a matter, they have an extra or casting vote.

Since 1862 we have had 28 Presidents, two of whom were women.

Only 3 have served terms broken by another Presidents term.

Before the introduction of the first limiting clause of the rules the average term of a President was between 7 & 8 years (certainly not the 30 that some are concerned about; that particular barrier has never been broken by any of our Presidents.)

After the clause was brought in to limit terms, the average term has been only just over 5 years.

This single factor, the clause limiting terms of Presidents, has led to a drop of about 2.5 years off the average term.

It is clearly evident that if we have achieved our biggest leaps forward with the stability obtained by allowing longer terms for Presidents, then we should be replicating that feat rather than being concerned about or fearful of all the possible bad things that could happen.

Calendar

Dec 15	Showground Markets & BAHPA Christmas Picnic
Jan 12	Showground Markets
Feb 8	Rydal Show
Feb 9	Showground Markets
Feb 15-16	Oberon Show
Feb 22	Rylstone Show
Feb 23	Sofala Show
Feb 28 - Mar 1	Boorowa Show
Feb 28 - Mar 2	Mudgee Show
Mar 1	Steward Training & Pavilion Bush Dance
Mar 9	Showground Markets
Mar 21-23	Lithgow Show
Mar 22	Blayney Show
Mar 29	Cumnock Show
Apr 10	Bourke Show
Apr 10-23	Sydney Royal Easter Show
Apr 13	Showground Markets
Apr 26	Royal Bathurst Showgirl Dinner
May 2-4	Royal Bathurst Show
May 10-11	Orange Show
May 11	Showground Markets
May 13	Yeoval Show
May 16-17	Cobar Show
May 17	Wellington Show
May 18-19	Nyngan Show
May 20-21	Gilgandra Show
May 23-25	Dubbo Show
May 27-28	Coonamble Show
May 31	Gulgambone Show
Jun 7	Warren Show
Jun 8	Showground Markets
Jul 13	Showground Markets
Aug 10	Showground Markets
Sep 14	Showground Markets
Oct 4-6	BAHPA Spring Show
Oct 11	Trunkey Creek Show
Oct 12	Showground Markets
Oct 18	Tooraweenah Show
Oct 25	Carcoar Show
Nov 8	Neville Show
Nov 9	Showground Markets

A number of Management & Standing Committee meetings are held regularly such as SHOW COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, The HORSE & PAVILION SECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

If you would like to find out about attending, providing input or getting involved please contact us.

ROYAL BATHURST SHOW NEWS

The 146th Royal Bathurst Show will commence with Pony Club & Local Equestrian events conducted on Thursday 1st May 2014 and will open to the public 2-4 May 2014 for the main show.

Schedules are being finalised and will be progressively uploaded to the website and distributed as they are completed over the next month and a half.

Judges and officials are also being finalised over the next few months and we are likely to have 2 international visitors in the equestrian rings.

We are also conducting the NSW YARD DOGS CHAMPIONSHIPS with the very welcome support of both MARS Petfood and the NSW Yard Dogs Association. More information will be released along with the Schedules.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2014 Membership Subscriptions will fall due on 31st December. Renewal notifications have been mailed with this newsletter and will still give you plenty of time to renew your membership and maybe purchase a gift membership for a friend or family member.

Membership Fees have not risen for some years now and in relation to the Gate Entry price is a good buy. Especially as you also have the opportunity to get involved in your Association. Financial Life Membership's remain for the more youthful potential members a bargain at only 10 times the annual Full Membership rate.

Full	\$84	Open to persons 18 years of age and over
Single	\$44	Open to persons 18 years of age and over
Junior	\$22	Open to persons under the age of 18
Financial Life	\$840	Open to persons 18 years of age and over
Corporate	\$220	Open to businesses & for profit organisations
Associate	\$110	Open to community & not for profit organisations

KEEP US FARMING

Last month we gave you the fantastic and tasty way to support local produce with the **BAH&PA Breakfast EDGELL Super Sweetcorn Fritter**. We hope you all tried it and more importantly enjoyed it.

From time to time we want to promote a KEEP US FARMING hero. This edition we are highlighting a regional producer that really needs to be supported and commended on what they are doing.

The Little Big Dairy Co from Dubbo is just one example of how local producers can make a difference and through a great product, a love for the land and passion, carve out a market for themselves in a very competitive environment.

A family run business for over 100 years the Chesworth family have worked hard to sustainably provide the best milk you can buy. They are



driven to keep farming, to look after the land and to care for their herd. Simply put they produce high-quality Single Source milk.

Running a herd of 800 Holsteins bred on their farm they are delivering over 8 million litres of milk every year, sustainably and viably.

Good on 'em. If you know of any other local regional producers that are passionate enough to **KEEP US FARMING** or a recipe or somehow that we can support them. Let us know.

www.littlebigdairy.co