

President's Report 2023-24

Presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Circular Head Agricultural Society Inc. on 22nd May 2024 at the Stanley Recreation Ground complex, Stanley.

It is with pleasure that I present my ninth President's report. A very successful 113th Circular Head Show was held on the 2nd December 2023. It was considered a very successful event with good weather and patronage.

Major work continued on the cattle pavilions with the assistance of a State Government 2023-24 Agricultural Show Development Grant for \$19,757.00. This allowed for four new doors to be constructed and installed on the Dairy Shed and the Animal Nursery complete with flashing. Shutters were installed on the trade cattle pavilion which allows for air circulation on Show Day. Thank you to Damien Smith for his expertise and work in this area. New guttering was also installed on the Golf Club side of this shed.

The Circular Head Council expended State Government funding of \$132,330 that was allocated prior to Covid for upgrading the public amenities block which was finished in time for the Show. The project work consisted of a new roof, external and internal painting, new entrance to the Ladies and inclusion of a Baby Change area while all the fixtures and fittings have been upgraded. Member for Braddon, Hon Felix Ellis MP, opened the Show and the public amenities block.

The 113th Show was well patronised with very positive feedback. There was a mixture of attractions for all ages:

- Sheep shearing demonstration & *Sea Eagle Spinners*
- Dog high jump organised by the North Motton Rural Youth with major sponsor Gavin Pearce MP
- A scale model steam engine and Fairground mechanical organ provided by Pearn's Steam World, Westbury
- Burnie Highland Pipe Band
- *Almost Heaven Clydesdales* offering free rides
- Blacksmith Demonstration
- Edith Creek Working Bullocks
- NW Snake Catchers
- Flowerdale Lobster Ponds
- Pygmy Goats Display
- Animal Nursery organised by Radford Family *Funny Farm*
- Rino Morea (Singer)
- Lynden's Laser Tag (New)
- Majick Feathers – Bird Display & Demonstration (New)
- Sheep dog demonstration – *Pandara Kelpies* (New)
- Historical Machinery Club/Veteran Car Club/NW Bird Club
- Show girl/boy Competition

Poultry display and *Graze the Region* were not part of the 2023 show. The day culminated with the Grand Parade; a fitting pinnacle of the day.

There were excellent entries in stud beef classes and it was great to welcome back Craggy Island Highland and new exhibitors, Three Shades Murray Grey. The revamped beef shed was fully utilised. In the Saputo Dairy Arena, numbers were on a par with last year while the trade cattle entries were at a maximum for the 40th year of this competition. As part of the National Beef 2024 held in Rockhampton May 2024, six carcass entries from the Circular Head Show were placed in the top twelve grass fed places; a remarkable achievement.

Sadly due to lack of numbers, the A1 section of the equestrian competition was dropped but there were good numbers in the A2 Jumping arena. Many thanks go to Berris and Steven Atkins who have been organising the Jumping arena for well over 40 years and to committee member, Cheryl Roberts, for her dedication to previously organising the Light Horse section.

The Young Handlers and Judges, Show and State competition, is always a highlight and thank you to all sponsors including CWA who were able to present their sponsored trophy. The **Smithton and Districts Community Bank** Exhibition Hall was again a highlight with the school displays a standout. The volunteers in this area under Chief Steward, Cheryl Lardner, spend many hours ensuring all exhibits are displayed to a high standard. Thank you to the Circular Head Garden Club for their continuing support in the Floral section.

The wood chopping was again organised by the NW Axeman's Association and with additional sponsorship, a Tasmanian title was able to be held. This area is always popular and was made more spectator friendly with the hire of a portable grand stand.

A preshow dinner was held, the first since Covid. Alastair Gracie was a very engaging guest speaker. With most of the Gracie family in attendance, it was fitting to announce that an area of the dairy cattle shed would officially be named *Gracie's Gable*. George Gracie was a Life Member who worked in the Dairy area for many years and sadly passed away in 2023.

The major joint raffle was held again with the Smithton Football Club, the Rocky Cape and Smithton Lions Club and the Show Society all sharing in the \$13,944 that was raised. A very impressive \$83,715.34 has been raised over seven years. Thanks goes to the sponsors of all prizes in conjunction with Hammond Family/Greenham Tas, Temma Farm and Perry's Quality Meats.

At the Wynyard Show in March 2024, a Certificate of Merit was presented to Robert and Christine Wilson who had helped in the stud beef area for many years prior to Covid. The same Award needs to be presented to past Beef Steward, Bob Kerr, at a time when suitable. In 2023 both Cheryl Lardner and Pam Gorringer were presented with Certificates of Merit for their dedication in organising the Exhibition Hall over many years. Thank you ladies. It was also very pleasing to attend the Circular Head Australia Day Awards (2024) where Brendan Burke was awarded Citizen of the Year. Brendan has supported the Show Society for many years, mainly in organising and running the Liquor Booth.

Thank you to Milton and Gaylene for again hosting a social get together after the Show.

No event is possible without sponsorship and the Society is grateful to each and every one of our 99 sponsors who sponsor across all areas of the Show. In particular, thank you to major Premium Platinum sponsors: Smithton & Districts Community Bank, Woolnorth Renewables, McCain Foods and Platinum sponsors: Greenham Tas PL, Collins Contracting, Saputo Dairy, Impact Fertilisers, LJI Excavations, Gavin Pearce MP, Smithton Betta Home Living and Veolia.

Thank you to our hard working committee members, volunteers and supporters for your dedication and commitment to organizing a successful event every year. Many volunteer hours have been contributed at working bees over the previous two years on maintenance tasks and large projects; our pavilions are now of a very high standard. Also thank you to exhibitors and patrons; there would not be a Show without you.

We look forward to again organising and holding the 114th Annual Show on 30th November 2024.

A.E. (Tony) Hine
22nd May, 2024