

# WHITTLESEA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION • DECEMBER 2020

HOOF & HOOK COMPETITION • HERITAGE • POULTRY • SHEEP • ART • HORSES • RECIPES  
EDUCATION • WOODCHOP • FARMERS CORNER • WORKING BEE • FARM & GARDEN

## 2020 IRWIN STOCKFEEDS HOOF & HOOK COMPETITION



The 2020 Irwin Stockfeeds Hoof & Hook Competition was run despite not being able to have our highly valued Annual Whittlesea Agricultural Show. Entry numbers were extra good with 74 exhibits. Live Hoof Judging was held on Sunday November 1st with 65 exhibits received under strict Covid-19 regulations, which only allowed a maximum of 10 persons on-site at any one time.

The great help of live judge Rocky Capsciolto, enabled us to run the Hoof Judging at the Showgrounds. Rocky grew up locally at Wollert and his family run several properties in the Goulburn Valley, turning off finished steers & heifers for the local trade. He also transports livestock, specialising in goats out of the Bourke area to Melbourne.

I would also like to thank Hardwicks Abattoir in Kyneton for their co-operation in processing cattle and scoring the carcasses. This is an additional workload for them in a short week and their support is vital for the competition.

Prices are always a talking point and we had the support of Rod Carnegie from Nutrien Ag Solutions in Euroa this year to negotiate, which once again resulted in a fair price for the stock.

Due to not being able to have exhibitors at judging, we decided to do some video and used the Whittlesea Show Facebook page to give some options to view. I would like to thank Kate Henne and Gay Ward for their efforts. Kate has spent a lot of time on this competition and was very willing to provide help to us as requested.

Our Stewards on the day are essential and I thank them very much. David Cocking, Geoff Bichard, Doris Cocking, Anne Cocking, Judy Clements, Andrew Cocking and Daryl Johnson. Ray Atwell once again provided the NLIS scanning, which with his help meant we identified the bodies from the scans as we were unable to be present at the Abattoirs due to regulations. The Show Committee and Secretary have also given their support in running this event.

Sponsorship is very important, and this financial support is vital to run these competitions, so a massive thanks to our sponsors. Irwin Stockfeeds, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Peter Lennox Mercedes Benz, Nutrien Delaney

Livestock & Property, K & G Labels, The Lloyd Family, Mick Hornsby Livestock, A & J Munro, Ross Draper Livestock Transport, Brian Alford Karingal Charolais, Madge Marsh, Cloverly Pastoral P/L, The Gamble Family, Merristock P/L, R & J Hyndman, Craiggrossie Pastoral, Geoff Bichard, Melbourne Polytechnic and Maranui Pastoral R H Draper.

Many thanks must also go to our exhibitors, without their support there would not be an event.

This year we were unable to hold a dinner to present the awards, however a picnic was held on the lawns of the Administration Building at lunchtime on Saturday November 14th.

All Presentations were made at the event for both Hoof & Hook sections, as exhibitors had not been allowed at the yards for the live judging. The ribbons were an ideal length to be a measure of social distancing!

A nice sunny day prevailed and the 45-50 people enjoyed a relaxing afternoon.

Congratulations to all winners in both Hoof & Hook Sections.

ROSS DRAPER - CATTLE SUPERINTENDENT

### HOOF PLACINGS

CHAMPION & FIRST IN CLASS 2 ALEX LINEHAM, VERVALE WITH AN ANGUS STEER

RESERVE CHAMPION & SECOND CLASS 2 MALCOLM HACKETT (SPECKLE PARK X SIMMENTAL)

3RD ALEX LINEHAM (ANGUS)

4TH MEADOW VALE (AUSTRALIAN SHORTHORN)

CLASS 1: 1ST GAY WARD (RED POLL)

2ND MALCOLM HACKETT (SPECKLE PARK X SIMMENTAL)

3RD PETER ROBINSON (LIMOUSIN)

4TH BE & LE JOHNSON (RED POLL)

### CARCASS HOOK RESULTS

CHAMPION & 1ST CLASS 1 GAY WARD (RED POLL)

RESERVE CHAMPION & 1ST CLASS 2 BRYCE JURGENS (ANGUS X MURRAY GREY)

CLASS 1 RESULTS: 2ND DN & DL POLLOCK (ANGUS X SHORTHORN)

3RD SCOTT BRUTON (SHORTHORN)

4TH GEOFF BICHARD (ANGUS X CHAROLAIS)

CLASS 2 RESULTS: 2ND T & L ELLIOTT (ANGUS X SOUTH DEVON)

3RD DW & DM COCKING (LIMOUSIN)

4TH GAY WARD (RED POLL)



Grand Champion: Gay Ward (Red Poll).



Reserve Champion: Bryce Jurgens (Angus x Murray Grey).



Cattle Superintendent Ross Draper and judge Rocky Capsciolto.



The volunteer team in action.



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**SEASONS' GREETINGS FROM THE WHITTLESEA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**



As we approach the end of another year I would like to thank the Whittlesea Agricultural Society Council, members, sponsors and the community for their continued support through this most difficult year.

I would like to make particular mention of outgoing President Kate Looker who has contributed some 12 years of dedication to the Whittlesea Agricultural Society through the roles of Honorary Treasurer, Junior Vice President, Senior Vice President and President. I also extend a sincere thanks to her son James Ady, retiring from his role as Gate Superintendent. Many thanks to the whole Looker family and I hope they enjoy some more family time moving forward.

I wish everybody a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to a more enjoyable 2021 where we can welcome the community to once again be part of the annual Whittlesea Show

ERICA HAWKE - SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

**FARMER'S CORNER**



"Abundant rain in late summer and autumn and follow up rain more recently has resulted in good pasture growth and welcome opportunities for hay making" Peter Towt.

Peter Towt inspecting hay and raking, "Mt. Hope", Whittlesea.

There is a flurry of activity throughout our district at the moment as farmers take advantage of a good season and the resulting pasture and crops to be conserved for future use.

Local farmers and contractors can be seen hard at work mowing, raking and baling and juggling the weather conditions to produce silage and hay. The bursts of hot conditions interspersed with rain can sometimes pose a challenge for hay making.

Ideally, pasture is cut at its peak, left on the ground to dry, then raked into windrows in preparation for baling. The La Nina patterns of high temperatures, humidity and rain create challenging conditions to work between.

Farmers monitor the weather patterns closely in the hope of timing these activities to produce the best hay possible. However, we are very grateful to be contending with La Nina conditions and not the dry conditions of an extensive El Nino pattern.

JUDY CLEMENTS



Merv Williamson raking, Eden Park.

Graeme Hunter, Eden Park, cutting fire breaks in preparation for the summer ahead.

## SHEEP

As we move into the warmer months, shearing takes place and everyone starts to prepare for the new year ahead.

In the sheep pavilion we have started to brain-storm ideas for our next show with consideration being given to implementing a fleece competition, as well as displays of current wool fashions, so we can share with the public the many and varied uses for wool once it leaves the sheep's back.

We are also looking at ways to share our knowledge through the use of technology and also how best to encourage youth to be involved in farming.

We wish everyone a safe and restful Christmas and New Year.

ADELE HEANEY - SUPERINTENDENT, SHEEP PAVILION



Sheering in action.



Senior Vice President Erica Hawke during shearing, working as a roustabout.

## HERITAGE

It's great to see our restrictions are starting to ease and we can work towards getting back to as normal as we can for now. Some of our members that I have spoken to have still been doing projects while in lockdown, including work on our donated welding unit, which now has an engine that runs.

Robert has been restoring a 1950 Diamond T Truck, Simmo and Keith have been working on a couple of Wolseley engines and I have finally got my Bavu engine running along with the Ronaldson Tippet that shares its transport.

The team hope to begin to transport our new acquisitions to the Showgrounds over the coming months so our restorations can begin in the new year.

We would love to see like minded people join the Whittlesea Agricultural Society Heritage Section and enjoy the rewards of restoring and maintaining our heritage for future generations to see. Please contact the Show Secretary on 9716 2835 and we will get in touch with you.

Some of the team were also involved in the working bee at the Showgrounds recently, tidying the extensive grounds, including mowing and a lot of whipper snipping since we haven't been able to for some time, making the grounds a lot more presentable and hopefully more manageable moving forward.

Merry Christmas and I hope everyone continues to keep safe and I wish everyone a happy and much better New Year than the one we have just endured.

DALE MURPHY - HERITAGE SUPERINTENDENT

## HORSES

I can see a new dawn appearing from the Covid-19 Pandemic. We here in Victoria have endured the storm as only Victorians can. We are now ready with the easing of restrictions to look towards a great 2021 Show as we all group back together with our Volunteers, Sponsors and Helpers, and can now go ahead with planning our 2021 Show.

In the Horse Section we are always working with other sections to ensure we all promote and present the best Annual Show possible and 2020 is nearly behind us.

I would like to thank the Whittlesea Adult Riders and Whittlesea Pony Club for their support during this time of uncertainty.

Our Horse Committee Personnel are the backbone of our section, with special thanks to the following people; Bruce Batten, Robert Draper, Jenny Dibben, Chris Black, John Pearce, Tash Fyfe and Ian Cochaud.

Even though we are a very large section, we have a very small group of people who dedicate their time to attend our Subcommittee meetings each month.

We also have many Volunteer Stewards, who year in and year out come in on Show weekend to ensure we have all jobs covered and under control.

Thanks also to; Jean & Caroline Crowther, Clara Fyfe, Bronwyn Fyfe, Evette Howard, Reg Cleland, Kolarra Moody, Ethan Stewart, Sharon Satchell, Chris Williamson, Sue Apted, Faye Keen, John Mason, Melissa Smith and Jahnae Parish.

These people come out rain, hail or shine and I have the utmost respect for them all.

Also special thanks to Life Member Jim Clements, who is a strong supporter of the Whittlesea Agricultural Society since he first joined

in 1946.

His contribution to the Horse Section over decades of service has been immense, including his achievement as our longest serving Ringmaster. He is a testament to the devotion and dedication our volunteers give towards this Society.

Just before our last annual Show in 2019, our number one Mounted Steward announced he would be moving interstate and would be unable to continue with his role.

We would like to thank Michael Whitehead for his many years of dedication to the Whittlesea Agricultural Show Society and he will definitely be greatly missed.

Michael has been involved with the Show for many years and we wish him all the best for his future ahead.

I would also like to take this chance to thank Robert Brown for his many years of service on our Horse Committee and his contributions to the Whittlesea Agricultural Society over our Show weekend.

Many of you will not know that I first got involved with the Whittlesea Show Horse Section when I noticed Jack Eadon trying to run both the Main Arena and Top Arena's on his own whilst also organising the Showjumping ring.

I asked if he needed help and the rest is history, my 40+ years in the Society have been filled with ups and downs, as with life, but all in all, it really has been a big family feeling within the Society.

If anyone is interested in joining our Horse Section Committee we welcome new members with open arms.

Jack Eadon's passing will leave a huge void in our Society, not only his wealth of knowledge, but his cheeky smile which he always wore with pride.

LYN LEE - HORSE SUPERINTENDENT

## POULTRY



Hello, I hope you are all well and enjoying your well-deserved freedom. Hoping you all are having success this breeding season, as I have hatched my first batch of chicken's on Melbourne Cup day.

I am now looking forward to the Poultry Shows, Markets and Poultry auctions starting up, but keeping in mind that we still need to be Covid aware at all events.

Some handy hints for cleansing your bird's digestive system are garlic cloves crushed and put into their drinking water, leave for two days, this is an old European recipe.

Another recipe is to use good quality raspberry cordial (not the cheap brand) and make the mixture to a pink solution and leave for one to two days, this recipe was proven to work for pigs and poultry many years ago and was published in the Weekly Times.

Apple Cider Vinegar is also good to use, I use 20 mLs to 1 litre of water, these keep for one to two days. If it is hot weather, do not leave any of these solutions for any more than one day.

Alternate these solutions, maybe once a month or two, and in between always give your bird's fresh water.



A new poultry club is also in the process of formation, they will gather throughout the year at the Poultry Pavilion at the Showgrounds.

If you are interested in finding out more please call John on 0499 583 839 or email whittleseapoultry2020@gmail.com

They also have a Facebook page "Whittlesea Poultry Club" which can be joined for up to date news.

DAVID BOYDE - POULTRY SUPERINTENDENT

## ART

One of the classes available for entering in 2021 is the 'Best Artwork depicting a Local Landscape', I will be doing some landscape painting in the Whittlesea area as we have so many lovely places to inspire creativity.

If anyone is interested in joining me, please contact the Show Secretary on 9716 2835 with your contact information and I will get in touch with you.

We are very lucky to live in a lovely area with plenty of subjects to paint.

THEL CARDWELL - ART SUPERINTENDENT



Photograph by Wendy Campbell near Funfields in Whittlesea.



Photograph by Emma Horman at Merri Creek in Whittlesea.

## WORKING BEE

The Whittlesea Agricultural Society is situated on privately owned land adjacent to the Showgrounds located in the heart of Whittlesea Township. A large acreage property over two adjoining sites, there is always a lot of maintenance work required to keep the grounds and buildings looking their best throughout the year.

A team of dedicated volunteers, led by Works Manager Alan Banks, gather at various times throughout the year to maintain the lawns, gardens and repairs. The amount of effort and time these volunteers generously donate to the Society is highly commendable and highly valued by all who visit for the various functions and events held throughout the year, including the annual Whittlesea Show.

Below are just a small handful of the many helpers who turn up at each months working bee, ready to contribute their skills and hard work for so many to benefit from. If you are interested in volunteering please give the Show Secretary a call on 9716 2835.



Above: Winston Taylor.



Above: Dale Murphy, Terry Elliott, Alan Banks, Rob Sly, Gordon Beaton (L-R).



Kevin Le Poidevin, Peter Towt.



Linda Elliott hard at work in the garden.

## HOMECRAFTS

### RECIPE: CASSATA CAKE

- 2 cups whipped cream
- 1 cup finely chopped glacé fruit (cherries, apricots, pineapple etc).
- 2 tbs sherry
- 2 x 1 litre vanilla ice cream
- 2 tbs cocoa
- 1 packet of milk chocolate melts
- ½ packet of shortbread biscuits

1. Soak fruit for minimum of 2 hours.
2. Add glacé fruit, after soaking, whipped cream.
3. Place into a spring form glad wrap lined tin.
4. Place in the freezer.
5. Soften 1 litre of vanilla ice cream add 2 tbs cocoa, stir through.
6. Add 1 pkt milk chocolate melts (melted) and stir through.
7. Place on top of cream mixture and freeze.
8. Soften 1 litre of vanilla ice cream, pour over chocolate ice cream when frozen.
9. Place tin back in the freezer.
10. Once frozen, pipe the whipped cream around top of cake and freeze again.
11. Crush ½ pkt of shortbread and lightly brown. Sprinkle over cake.
12. Freeze until ready to serve.

ANNE GREER - HOMECRAFTS

### RECIPE: GINGERBREAD CAKE

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 350g Treacle     | 7g Ginger        |
| 150g Butter      | 3g Cinnamon      |
| 250g Brown sugar | 3g Nutmeg        |
| 300g Milk        | 1g Clove         |
| 7g Bi-carb       | 450g Plain flour |
| 7g Baking powder | 1 Egg            |

1. Combine the treacle, butter, brown sugar and milk into a pot and slowly bring to the simmer.
2. Whilst the wet mixture is coming up to temperature, mix in the spices and rising agents into the flour so everything is combined evenly. The wet mixture is ready when everything is melted and has become one.
3. In either your stand mixture (cake beater attachment) or hand beaters, combine the wet and dry ingredients, when this starts to come together add in your whole egg. Continue to beat the mixture for 10 minutes at a moderate pace.
4. Whilst the mixture is beating line a 20 cm round tin, if the tin is shallow, add height with baking paper to ensure it doesn't overflow.
5. Bake at 160C (fan forced) for 1 to 1.5 hours, or until the tester comes out clean.
6. Allow to sit for at least 10-15 minutes before removing from tin to cool completely.
7. Serve simply with a dusting of icing sugar and double cream.

Serves 8-10

ALYSSA RICHARDSON - HOMECRAFTS

## EDUCATION

Our team were disappointed that we were unable to run competitions this year, however we are refining the 2021 classes and working on possible new classes for students to enter.

In 2019, we sent a survey to schools for feedback and we received many great responses, these are being used to make the 2021 Education section even more outstanding.

This section received over 6000 entries in 2019 and a great amount of effort goes into organising entries, judging and the display of the work.

Staff at the schools also put in an enormous effort each year to coordinate their students work and we are grateful to them and our volunteers for making this section a great success each year.

We hope you have a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year.

IAN COCHAUD - EDUCATION SUPERINTENDENT

## OUR BEAUTIFUL SHOWGROUND

Our town is blessed with one of the most picturesque Showgrounds in the State. With its backdrop of the Great Dividing Range and significant old Oak trees, it looks a treat.

The Showground is the responsibility of the volunteers of the Whittlesea Showgrounds & Recreation Reserves Committee of Management (CoM). This encompasses the football oval, Monday Market area and Cattle & Homecrafts Pavilions.

The Whittlesea Agricultural Society land is privately owned and includes the Administration Building, Horse Arena & associated buildings, Heritage sheds and Animal Nursery.

With the support of the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, the CoM will soon be erecting a new oval fence to improve safety and amenity for all user groups and the public.

In the next newsletter edition I will provide a full report on this important project and the history of the CoM.

JUDY CLEMENTS

## FARM & GARDEN

Wow the garden has taken off this past month! The seeds are all sprouting within a week of planting and the seedlings are all strong and healthy. The kids and I have just harvested the last of the broad beans and pulled out the plants. We shell the beans and put them straight into the freezer.

We've found that both broad beans and whole green beans store and eat better if frozen straight from the garden, no blanching first. If you have any tips like these, please let us know and we can include them in a following newsletter.

There are many paddocks that have been cut and baled and the sweet smell of hay lingers in the air. The kids love climbing on the round bales and jumping the rows. Keep tending those gardens and you will reap the reward.

Have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the festive season.

ERICA HAWKE & THE FARM & GARDEN TEAM

## WOODCHOP

Congratulations to woodchopping World Champion Brayden Meyer from Broadford, who won the first-ever virtual STIHL Timbersports Australian Championship in November, held virtually at four locations across four days due to state border closures and restrictions.

Brayden was presented with his STIHL Timbersports Australian Virtual Championship medal and trophy by Brownlow Medallist Adam Cooney.

TOM LEE - WOODCHOP SUPERINTENDENT

## 2019 WHITTLESEA SHOW MEMORIES

One of Victoria's largest and iconic annual community events, the Whittlesea Show is a tradition among family and friends. The Whittlesea Agricultural Society exists to educate, inform, and entertain, bringing agriculture, farming, and a rural focus to the wider public.

Offering a fun-packed weekend of entertainment, the Show successfully combines tradition with modern-day life, from discovery and adventure to hands-on experiences and learning while you watch – there really is something for everyone.



WHITTLESEA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY LTD.

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

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