

# WHITTLESEA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION • MARCH 2021

LOCAL SHOW & TELL • HERITAGE • POULTRY • ANIMAL NURSERY • HORSES  
FARMERS CORNER • HOMECRAFTS • FARM & GARDEN • ARENA FENCE • OPEN DAY

## 2021 WAS OPEN DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who came along to support our Open Day. Thank you also for your support and assistance with the planning, set up, displays and information, and pack up on the day.

We had good weather and from all accounts the day was enjoyed by all who attended. It was particularly nice to see WAS members take the opportunity to have a chat and catch up with each other after such a long period without a WAS event to bring us all together.

There was a fantastic Heritage display, hay rides, farm animals, fresh produce, merchandise, kids activities and of course the great Aussie sausage sizzle!

Thanks again for your support as we move toward the 2021 Whittlesea Show.

ERICA HAWKE - PRESIDENT



### 2021 VIRTUAL MINI SHOW

We have missed you all over the past year – our Committee, Members, exhibitors and sponsors – our extended 'WAS family'.

So while you are waiting for the return of the 2021 Whittlesea Show, here is an opportunity to participate in the 'Virtual Whittlesea Show – spreading the word'.

A mini autumn event. Stay tuned for more information soon.

To join the mailing list visit [www.whittleseashow.org.au](http://www.whittleseashow.org.au)

JUDY CLEMENTS

### SHOW & TELL

The annual Whittlesea Show has been creating enjoyment and memories for our community over generations. Young and old come together to organise and take part in this highly valued event.

My earliest involvement in the Show takes place before I can even recount. I do however have a photo to prove I took part as a two-year-old in 1964.

The ability to ride a horse was an essential skill in farming life that was to be learnt from an early age. The Whittlesea Show enabled this ability to be put on a show for all to see.

With my having a twin brother, Mum took the opportunity to dress us in matching jodhpurs and jumpers. A matching double impact was perhaps her line of thought.

I guess we were entered in the 'Topsy Ring' along with other enthusiastic entrants. Our proud parents standing by to encourage us and to perhaps even wipe away any tears that might fall.

I came across these photos in a recent tidy up. This made me think that there must be other people within our community who have early childhood memories and photos of their involvement at the Show.

If you do have such material, I would encourage you to bring this information forward to show and tell your story for others to enjoy. The Show Secretary can be contacted on 9716 2835 or by email at [info@whittleseashow.org.au](mailto:info@whittleseashow.org.au)

ROSS MUGAVIN

W.A.S MEMBER, SPONSOR & MEMBER OF  
THE WHITTLESEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Twin brothers Neil and Ross Mugavin with their father Laurie preparing for the 1964 Whittlesea Show.

**FARMER'S CORNER**



WAS Life Member Peter Towt during recent shearing at "Mt. Hope", Whittlesea.

Our district has been fortunate to experience relatively mild conditions throughout summer and the accompanying reduced fire risk has been most welcome. Rainfall throughout February has been very low locally and throughout much of the State, but weather patterns down the east coast and further inland are now showing promising signs.

Late spring and summer are an important time to attend to weed growth, particularly blackberry which grows rampantly at this time. Some local farmers are participating in rabbit control programs, gauging the impact of biological control on this troubling pest.

In the north of our district, a program has been underway to reduce the number of feral deer, now in significant numbers in our National Parks and water catchments. There is much to be done regarding pest plants and animals, which are always a challenge to the farmer.

We hope the coming weeks will bring good rain to provide us with the all-important 'autumn break' to set us up for the months ahead.

JUDY CLEMENTS

**FARMER'S CORNER**



"The season has been terrific with a good supply of pears and apples being right up there".  
Ben Apted.

On a recent visit to the orchard of Leslie Apted & Sons Pty. Ltd., Ben Apted and the team were hard at work, harvesting the bounty of beautiful fruit from this season's crop. Apted's Orchard, a family business, has been in operation for over 100 years and across 5 generations.

They grow apples, pears, lemons and quinces at the Arthurs Creek and Kinglake West orchards. The operation is a most impressive sight, with its irrigated, netted and trellised trees over a total area of 500 hectares of orchard and grazing.

The Apted Family have had a long connection with community and the Whittlesea Show as a sponsor for many years. We appreciate their support of our Society and their significant effort as producers of high-quality fruit and to agriculture and horticulture in this district.

JUDY CLEMENTS



## ANIMAL NURSERY

Hi I'm Melany, I grew up as one of 6 kids on a property in country NSW where if Mum forgot to pick us up from the bus stop at 5pm, it was a very long, hot and dusty 3km walk home.

We bred and showed horses, spent weekends swimming in the local river, motorbike riding, target shooting, catching yabbies and working in the local vineyards.

Looking for adventure, I moved to Melbourne when I was 18 with only a suitcase and a backpack. I never imagined that adventure would include meeting my husband Dirk a year later, marrying at 21 then having 5 kids over the following 8 years.

We live in Kinglake West where we recently built our family home. We have 8 sheep, an alpaca named James and a dog called Lulah. Hubby does not know it yet, but I see more animals joining our little homestead here in the future!

I currently work as a freelance Graphic Designer, I love drawing, photography, crocheting, cooking, interior decorating, gardening, and live country music.

I am really looking forward to being part of the Whittlesea Agricultural Society and helping with the Whittlesea Show as the newly appointed Animal Nursery superintendent. I am a pretty friendly person, so I enjoy volunteering, meeting new people and getting involved in our great community.

The Animal Nursery is a great opportunity for people to get up close to a variety of farm animals. If you have any young animals we could place in our Animal Nursery for visitors to pet supervised at our 2021 Whittlesea Show, please contact the Secretary on 9716 2835.



MELANY NAUTA - SUPERINTENDENT, ANIMAL NURSERY

## HORSES

2021 is proving to be another year of uncertainty with lockdowns hanging over every state border. We in the Horse section are going to stay positive that we will get to run our 2021 Horse Qualifier in April, May or August, depending on weather.

We would love to think our annual Show will be a back to normality on the first weekend in November, with the public allowed to come and view all equine disciplines on show.

Our Horse section will keep trying to prepare the best Show possible for competitors, taking into consideration all Covid regulations and ensuring a safe environment.

The Horse Committee will be holding a meeting in April to go through all our competitions and develop classes in some sections.

We will also look at including new and exciting sections to promote other equine disciplines. We meet about 9 times a year and meetings only normally go for 1 & ½ hours on a Tuesday night.

More volunteers are needed, we would be most grateful if you would consider joining our Horse Section, please contact me through our office by emailing [info@whittleseashow.org.au](mailto:info@whittleseashow.org.au) and we will let you know when our meeting dates are set.

Looking forward to running an exciting 2021 Whittlesea Show.

LYN LEE - HORSE CHAIRPERSON

## FARM & GARDEN

Hi, my name is Fiona Parkinson and I have recently joined the Whittlesea Agricultural Society as the superintendent for the Farm and Garden section.

Over the past 19 years I have lived in the Shire and township of Whittlesea on hobby farms, with a menagerie of horses, sheep, dogs and poultry. I love gardening and work in a local wholesale nursery. I am also studying sustainable living online at the University of Tasmania and run the Australian arm of a charity for a neurological disease called Superficial Siderosis.

I have 3 sons and they have grown up entering the Whittlesea Show, mainly the Education section through their school, but my youngest always enters his chicken's eggs in the Farm and Garden section and I usually enter the jams and preserves in Homecrafts.

I look forward to meeting everyone.

FIONA PARKINSON - SUPERINTENDENT, FARM & GARDEN

## MEETINGS

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our Homecrafts helpers who came along to set up our display and demonstrate for the first Whittlesea Agricultural Society Open Day which I thought was a great success, it was also a great opportunity for people to reconnect after a long 2020.

The Homecrafts team is hopeful that we will have a somewhat normal Whittlesea Show this year, which means it's time to get our thinking caps on for ideas and changes that will need to be made to get this year's Show coming along.

We will be starting our meetings and working bees a little earlier than normal this year as the shed will need a proper clean out due to the lack of Show last year.

Anyone is welcome to come along to our meetings and see what we do and how the Homecrafts building comes to life for the annual Whittlesea Show weekend. We have a wonderful team and are always looking for extra hands, so if you would like to ask any questions please feel free call me on 0437 182 336 or at [jacobhince@hotmail.com](mailto:jacobhince@hotmail.com)

JACOB HINCE - HOMECRAFTS SUPERINTENDENT

**HERITAGE**

The Heritage section exists to preserve locally acquired historical artefacts, including engines, tools and other items of historical significance. We meet (when not under restrictions) most Wednesday nights, to restore, organise and otherwise try to improve our display which is housed across 3 sheds, for the Whittlesea Show weekend.

We also, where practicable, use the talents of section members to assist in other works around the Whittlesea Agricultural Society's grounds. If you would like to become involved, please contact the Secretary on 9716 2835.

DALE MURPHY - HERITAGE SUPERINTENDENT

**WHITTLESEA SHOWGROUNDS & RECREATION RESERVES COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**

The Whittlesea Showgrounds and Recreation Reserves Committee of Management has recently undertaken a major project to install a new fence on the main arena of the Showgrounds.

The fence of black powder-coated chain mesh is an asset to the picturesque ground set amongst significant trees and a backdrop of the Great Divide. The project has been undertaken with the support of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and will be of benefit to user groups and the safety of the public attending the Whittlesea Show and the football.

The Committee of Management (CoM) is the body responsible under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act for the management of some 25 hectares of land and associated infrastructure within the township of Whittlesea, including the Showgrounds.



CoM members are appointed by the relevant Minister of the Victorian Government and represent the user groups of the Showgrounds and Reserves, the broader community and the Whittlesea Council. They operate under the rules applicable to Not-For-Profit organisations.

The Crown Land under the responsibility of the CoM includes the main showground/football oval and the McPhee Reserve, Whittlesea Park on the south side of Yea Road, which includes the parkland through to Laurel Street and Little River Street, along with the Scrubby Creek Reserve. It is responsible for the management and maintenance of the park land and specific infrastructure with some support from the City of Whittlesea. It generates income from the lease and hire of its facilities and through the operation of the Whittlesea Monday Market.

All representatives on the CoM are volunteers and contribute significantly in time, knowledge and expertise to the governance, management and maintenance of the land under their responsibility. These volunteers along with those of the Whittlesea Agricultural Society undertake works including mowing, weed management, tree planting and maintenance, bridge building, drainage works and road maintenance.

The Whittlesea Agricultural Society is required to nominate their representatives annually for the CoM. Under the Rules, the WAS representatives are not permitted to vote on issues associated with their Society.

JUDY CLEMENTS

**POULTRY**

Hello, and welcome to the Whittlesea Agricultural Society newsletter Poultry Section, I hope this year has started well, it has to be better than last year. On the 14th of March my assistant Neville Craze and I took part in the Open Day. It was a great opportunity to speak to people in person about exhibiting poultry and the Society in general.

Breeding season is about to finish as I have some of my birds starting to moult, it's time to sort out the keepers and what to move on and I hope you all have had a good breeding season.



Having no poultry or Agricultural Shows last year I am keen to see them go ahead this year. There will be changes to all Shows due to continuing restrictions, but we will get through this.

To our sponsors, I would like to thank you for your past support and look forward to our continued partnership supporting the Whittlesea Agriculture Show.

DAVID BOYDE - POULTRY SUPERINTENDENT

**WHITTLESEA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AWARDS AFTERNOON TEA**

DATE: SUNDAY 11TH APRIL 2021 | TIME: 2PM | LOCATION: WHITTLESEA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - GATE 1, MCPHEES RD WHITTLESEA 3757  
 RSVP TO THE SECRETARY BY PHONE ON 9716 2835 OR EMAIL [info@whittleseashow.org.au](mailto:info@whittleseashow.org.au) BY THE 8TH APRIL 2021.

**WORKING BEE - BRIDGE REPAIR**

A working bee was held on Tuesday 16th March 2021 to repair the Bailey Bridge located on the Showgrounds.

¾ of the timber was replaced by a team of volunteers who assisted in these works.

Many thanks to Graeme Young, Terry Elliott, Gordon Beaton, John Greer, Peter Townt, Roger Hurrey, Kevin LePoidevin and Winston Taylor from the Society, as well as James Anderson and Donna Cooper from the Whittlesea Adult Riders for their hard work, and thank you also to Judy Clements who provided morning tea.

ROGER HURREY - WORKS



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

A new year and we are straight back into it, looking at planning and organising our 2021 Show. Though I feel we are in a more stable environment, who knows what this year will hold, so we will roll with what the year brings, and take it as it comes.

Our Secretary Rose Stark has updated our Facebook page and website title to correct our name to Whittlesea Agricultural Society and Whittlesea Show. Rose has also updated our address on Google Maps. These small changes will make it easier for people to find us when they search online.

This year and each December moving forward the Whittlesea Agricultural Society will be coordinating and hosting the Whittlesea Community Christmas Tree Spectacular in the Whittlesea Agricultural Society Administration building. We can fit a lot of artificial Christmas trees in there!

Organisations, shops, trades, community groups, schools, individuals and so on are invited to enter a decorated Christmas tree (we can supply the tree if required). Your tree may be decorated in a theme depending on the organisation or just made to look pretty. For example, a mechanic may decorate their tree with business cards and tools, the doctors might decorate their tree with ID bands, the florist may decorate with flowers and so on. You can get creative and enter anything you choose that is in the shape of a tree.

Please contact the office if you would like to enter. Thank you to the Social Committee for taking on this exciting event as part of their program. We have had the generous donation of around 16 artificial trees so far which is a great start. We still need a lot more trees so please get the word out there and ask around for trees of any size and colour.

Rose has set us up with a QR Code for the WAS Admin building and it would be great if you were able to use it upon entering the building please instead of handwriting your sign in. We can accommodate 1 person per 2sqM if we use the QR Code and 1 person per 4sqM if we sign in manually.

I would like to say a huge thankyou to everyone for their encouragement and support with taking on the President role before my time.

ERICA HAWKE - PRESIDENT



**VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**Finance:** To assist the Treasurer.

**Administration:** If you would like to gain more skills in administration or are looking for volunteer work in this area please contact us.

**Commercial Beef Herd Superintendent:** We are looking for someone to be trained in becoming the Superintendent for this section. You will receive support in taking on this position.

If you are interested in any of these roles please contact the Secretary Rose Stark on 9716 2835 or email [info@whittleseashow.org.au](mailto:info@whittleseashow.org.au)

**MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**



TIES \$5  
SCARF \$5  
STRESS PIGS \$4  
REUSABLE CALICO BAGS \$5



To purchase items please contact the Secretary on 9716 2835.

THE WHITTLESEA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ACKNOWLEDGES THE CITY OF WHITTLESEA FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY GROUP SUPPORT GRANT IN THE PRODUCTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

WHITTLESEA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY LTD.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
GATE 1, MCPHEES RD  
WHITTLESEA VIC 3757

PHONE: 03 9716 2835

[www.whittleseashow.org.au](http://www.whittleseashow.org.au)  
[info@whittleseashow.org.au](mailto:info@whittleseashow.org.au)

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.