



THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NATAL

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020



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OVERVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTED TO MEMBERS AT THE AGM HELD IN THE GRILL ROOM ON 6 NOVEMBER

Despite high expectations, the year under review proved testing; indeed, all three components of the Society's operations, being the Royal and Garden Shows and Conferences Functions and Events, experienced elements of challenge.

This notwithstanding, the Royal Mews Trust produced an acceptable set of results, which by way on an income distribution accrues annually to the Royal Agricultural Society; a pleasing 'back-stop' that 'cushions' the Society against the vagaries of the times.

Overall headline earnings reflect a surplus of R581 346 as opposed to R1 203 320 in 2018.

POSITIVES

The leaner and more streamlined Executive Committee approved at the AGM on 7 November 2018 has fulfilled expectations in terms of attendance and efficiency.

Despite the uncertainties and hurdles confronting the South African agricultural sector, cattle and sheep numbers at the 2019 Royal Show saw an increase for the third consecutive year. Indeed, smallstock numbers, at 1 076, set a new Show record.

Also, the Carcass Competition livestreamed to 15 000 viewers for the first time, set a new South African record of R200 per kg for beef.

Having been a source of consternation in 2017 and 2018, biometric access - upgraded from a fingerprint to a card swipe system - operated faultlessly.

Following a protracted exercise, an Agreement of Lease was entered into with the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Business in respect of Chamber House.

For the first time in several years, the RAS experienced an increase in the number of members.

The Society received a Level 4 BEEE rating (in terms of the new codes) placing it in the top 35% of South African businesses.

Providing impetus to an already vibrant beef component, the Wagyu Breed participated in the Royal Show by way of a meaningful display and marketing campaign.

FUTURE OF THE ROYAL SHOWGROUNDS - CLARIFICATION

- The Grounds **have not** been sold:
- the Society **does not** have a 'for sale' sign up at the gate:
- but, the pressures of hosting an agricultural show in the CBD are mounting and should an acceptable proposal to purchase ever be received, it would be given earnest consideration.
- Should a sale result, the Showgrounds would in all probability relocate to a more 'fit-for-purpose' facility close to Pietermaritzburg.

MEET LAUREN FISHER - EXHIBITION COORDINATOR



Following her acceptance of a new Marketing position, the RAS was saddened to say goodbye to Lara Bezuidenhout. Having said this the RAS is pleased to welcome her replacement, Lauren Fisher, who joined the Society on 1 November



Visit our photo gallery
www.royalshow.co.za/gallery

MEMBERSHIP 2020

For the benefit of those who have recently joined, membership entitles you to the following: free access to the Royal Show, free parking at the Royal Show, use of the members' facilities during the Royal Show and free access to the Witness Garden Show. Free parking is not available at the Garden Show.

ACCESS

Members will be issued with a magnetic swipe card clearly marked "Member"

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1 JAN TO 31 DEC 2020

Adults	R 180.00
Juniors (U18)	R 90.00
Pensioners (60+)	R 90.00
Joining Fee (New Members Only)	R 300.00

<http://www.royalshow.co.za/membership>

ISSUE OF ACCESS PERMITS

Providing payment of your subscription has been received, your access permits can be collected from the Society's office during working hours (08h00 to 16h00, Monday to Friday)

We will, on receipt of a written request and payment of R25.00 (but at the risk of the member), mail your membership card to you. Please note that should an Access Card be lost, a R90 charge will be levied for replacement.

2020 ROYAL SHOW: 22 MAY - 31 MAY

Every effort is being made to structure a full and interesting program, and further information will be shared in our March Newsletter.



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www.facebook.com/royalshowpietermaritzburgsa

2020 THE WITNESS GARDEN SHOW: 4 - 6 SEPTEMBER



SUGGESTIONS

Please note that the RAS is **your** society and as such you are invited to share any thoughts and suggestions. Although these should ideally be emailed to the office of the CEO, Mr Strachan is - by arrangement - willing to meet with any member in person.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Website: www.royalshow.co.za



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INTERESTING QUICK FACTS

ROYAL SHOW:

- With upwards of 3000 animals, the Royal is the largest agricultural Show in South Africa catering for livestock and implements
- The Royal Show hosts South Africa's premier red meat competition
- In recent years, the Show has become a shop-window of note for construction equipment and the materials handling sector
- With the focus on sustenance from farm field to dining table, The Mercury Festival of Fine Living - with 105 000 visitors - draws the largest foot traffic of any dedicated exhibit in South Africa
- In addition to being a respected conduit of business, the Show incorporates a significant entertainment programme, including family entertainment and five concerts of an international standard; each catering for separate genres

WITNESS GARDEN SHOW:

- The Witness Garden Show is the largest horticultural event in South Africa
- The standard of display is deemed to be on a par with the best the Chelsea Flower Show has to offer.



