



Toodyay Agricultural Society (Inc)

founded 1853

PO Box 362, Toodyay, WA 6566

Email: toodyayagsociety@gmail.com

Web: www.toodyayagshow.com.au

President: 0413 380 650

ABN: 96 074 225 286

TOODYAY HERALD, November 2024, by Alison Wroth

One thing that every community in a country town needs, be it large or small, is an event that brings together individuals and businesses alike to participate, support and engage with each other. One of those special events, our historic 170th Anniversary Toodyay Agricultural Show occurred recently on Saturday 5th October, making the Committee believe that all the effort put in had been worthwhile; proved by the smiling faces, outstanding crowd numbers of over 5,000 through the gate and the constant activity in the halls and on the Showground. Put your hand up if you agree!!

We are very proud of our history as since the Society's establishment in 1853, the iconic Toodyay Agricultural Show has played a key role in our community, and we always attempt to celebrate this.

A sight to remember this year was our WA Governor, His Excellency the Hon Chris Dawson AC APM and Mrs Dawson, arriving in a vintage Stutz car with the TAS President Ms Karen Dore to the Showgrounds, guided by three well known locals riding vintage motorbikes. Life Member Mrs Kerry Knowles was the MC and proceeded to introduce the Welcome to Country, the WA Governor's Opening of the Toodyay Show as well as the presentation of the handcrafted Quilt for the special year, to the President, by representatives of the local Quilting Groups who had produced the showstopper.

Even as the Governor viewed the Showgrounds after the Opening and Morning Tea with Life Members; the Show proceeded, and the crowd increased. The full Show Train arrived bringing many eager Show visitors to Toodyay and we are hoping to lock in place TransWA for another train next year. Overall, the Equestrian Pleasure Show had pony rings that were filled with activity nearly all day. 78 Trade exhibits/market stalls made the ground space along with Sideshow Alley a magnet for the families. Popularity awards must go to the poultry stewards and exhibitors, goats of ANY breed, Butterflies 'n' Mini Beasts, Heritage Chillies, Lucas Timber Mill and the WA Police Display. With 26 entertainment groups, the Committee made sure that all interests were covered. How fantastic were the Exhibition Halls this year packed with over 1,630 entries from the community and surrounding regions, with the school displays covering the walls, adding to the overall colour of the Floriculture & Craft sections.

The Livestock did not disappoint with all the Cattle Yards full, a packed Poultry Shed guarded by Henrietta the Hay Hen; the Sheep Pavilion was filled with a variety of breeds in competition, sharing the space with the WA Dairy Goats. Wool and Agriculture were both well supported which was in itself great to see from the local farmers. Our 170th Anniversary Toodyay Agricultural Show did not disappoint anybody on a day that was just blessed by exceptional weather.

The Committee work so hard during the year to organise this Show that endeavours to cater for every single age group, personality and interest. With the positive and complimentary comments received on the day and after, the Committee members believe that we achieved this. We are looking at better promotion of "entering the Show" next year, entries made easier, especially with the online entries. Social media and our website promotion was excellent this year, motivating everybody to enter that rose, jar of relish, or dare I say the Man Cake!

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The Toodyay Agricultural Society would like to thank all those individuals and businesses from in town and out, who have generously supported the Toodyay Show this year through either some form of major sponsorship or the donation of Trophies and Prize Money. Without this sponsorship of the Show each year, the Committee would not be able to organise the type of event we do.

Many community groups assist prior to or on the Show day and we are very grateful for this, as without this help the day would not run as smoothly as it does.

Our thanks must go to the Toodyay and Northam Bendigo Community Bank for the sponsorship of our magnificent Fireworks display this year. It was one of the best displays I have seen for a long time and we are very appreciative of their three year support so we can continually wind up the Show with such a bang! As with our other Major sponsors this year including Chalice Mining, Creative Canary, CSBP Fertilisers, Dunnings, Rio Tinto, Shire of Toodyay, TransWA, Rio Tinto and Vernice along with Morgan Feed Supplies, Makit and the Toodyay Op Shop; our heartfelt thanks as the Show would not be possible without their financial backing, in kind support and general interest in our Show.

Thanking all the helpers, Stewards, Judges, Community Groups, Curtin Volunteer students and our wonderfully committed Committee individually would take more words than I'm allowed; the Committee are all looking forward to organising the Toodyay Agricultural Show in 2025 after a short break over Christmas.

If you are keen to be involved and join the team, please consider coming to the AGM in February, as there might be a few seats that would love to be filled. You might just have that new idea or skill set that the Committee have been looking for.

The President, and Committee sincerely hope you all enjoyed the Show this year, as it would not have been the same without you being there.



Image credit: Sean Hefferon, Toodyay Herald

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