

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 33

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA (LAUNCESTON SHOW SOCIETY) COLLECTION

Agricultural Shows, Launceston

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

The Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society was founded in June 1873. The Society was reconstituted in 1898 following a suggestion by John Gunning, who drafted the Society's new constitution, that a more comprehensive show should be presented which reflected the wide range of industries practised in Tasmania. The reconstituted Society had a broader focus. One of its main objectives was to present urban as well as rural industries and to reflect both country and city interests. In 1921 the Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society changed its name to the National Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Tasmania, the first Show Society to become fully national. As a result all classes of competition were open to competitors from the whole of Australia, except for a few which were open only to Tasmanian entrants. The addition of the prefix Royal was approved in 1984 by HRH Queen Elizabeth II and the Society was called the Royal National Agricultural and Pastoral Society.

The Society's first show was held in September 1873 in Invermay, where York Park is now situated. In 1882, after the Launceston City Council requisitioned the removal of all Show buildings, the show was moved to a new location. However this location was found to be inadequate and limited the activities that the Society was able to present. Following the reconstitution of the Society, the show was relocated to the Elphin Show Grounds. The Society first leased these grounds, but purchased them in the 1930s. The size of the Show Ground was increased in the 1940s with assistance from a State government grant. The show was held at the Elphin Ground from 1899 to 1997, except during the Second World War when the Ground was occupied by the Armed Forces for training purposes. As a result the show was not held in 1940, 1941 or 1942. In 1943 a special 'War Time Show' was held successfully, despite the limitations imposed by war time conditions. It included special exhibits relating to the war effort. A 'Victory Show' was held in 1945 to celebrate the end of the war, although conditions were still difficult. In 1998 the Show's venue moved to the Inveresk railway site. (*Examiner* 9 October 1998)

As well as holding the annual show, the Society maintained a wider interest in primary industry production, including government policy on the subject. It was also involved with a number of clubs, councils and societies, including the Northern Tasmanian Trotting Club and the Kennel Council of Tasmania. Some of these organisations, particularly sporting groups, used the Show Ground for their activities. The Show Council of Tasmania was formed at the suggestion of the Society. This body was created to meet a need to coordinate the dates on which the various agricultural shows around the state were held. It also served as a forum for addressing other issues which affected bodies such as the Show Society. Like the Show Society, the Show Council maintained an interest in primary industry production and related issues.

Four series of correspondence constitute the bulk of the collection. The first series includes files arranged alphabetically and are titled by the subject of their contents. The second series is arranged chronologically and is indexed. The items included in this series were originally held together in letter books, but have been divided into parts during archival processing to help their preservation. The third series of correspondence is arranged alphabetically and is also indexed. The fourth series is arranged alphabetically and chronologically, but is not indexed. The second, third and fourth of these correspondence series mainly include correspondence with competitors and exhibitors. The fifth series of correspondence contains only one item.

Items donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in February 2002 were added to an earlier donation.

1.Minutes of Meetings

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|------|---|-----------|
| 1/1 | Agricultural Show Council of Tasmania, minutes of executive committee and annual meetings, 22/9/1909-5/2/1957 (includes constitution; list of affiliated societies and newspaper cuttings) | 1909-1957 |
| 1/2 | Agricultural Show Council of Tasmania, minutes of annual general meetings and meetings, 31/7/1981-25/2/1983 (includes annual report 1980/81, 1982) | 1980-1983 |
| 1/3 | Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society, minutes of executive committee meetings, 8/9/1903-13/9/1910 | 1903-1910 |
| 1/4 | Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society, minutes of executive meetings, 25/5/1920-23/3/1926 (in 1921 the Society's name was changed to National Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Tasmania) | 1920-1926 |
| 1/5 | National Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Tasmania, minutes of annual meetings (includes annual reports for 1931/32-1946/47, 1948-1952, 1954-1971, 1975; constitution at 21/3/1934, 2/2/1965, 31/1/1967 and newspaper cuttings) | 1930-1975 |
| 1/6 | Minutes of executive committee meetings, 16/2/1932-4/7/1944 | 1932-1944 |
| 1/7 | Minutes of executive committee meetings, 11/7/1944-31/5/1949 | 1944-1949 |
| 1/8 | Minutes of council meetings, 20/3/1962-6/3/1973 | 1962-1973 |
| 1/9 | Minutes of executive committee, finance committee, sheep committee, pig sub-committee, ladies committee, rodeo committee, horse Olympics committee, dairy cattle committee, kennel committee etc meetings, 30/1/1962-5/4/1973 | 1962-1973 |
| 1/10 | Annual Conference of Secretaries of Royal Agricultural Show Societies, minutes of meetings, 2/12/1959-4/11/1971 (from 1962 called Annual Conference of Chief Executive Officers of Royal Agricultural Show Societies) | 1959-1971 |
| 1/11 | Launceston Show schools competition sub-committee, minutes of meeting, 30 October 1936 | 1936 |
| 1/12 | Easter Carnival/Elphin Show carnival, minutes of meetings Feb 1944 to May 1945 | 1944-45 |

2.Financial Records

2/1	Accounts for Payment	1935-1939 (with gaps)
2/2	Miscellaneous invoices and receipts (includes Works Contract Certificates, Colin K Byers)	1935-1936
2/3	Miscellaneous invoices and receipts	1939-1940
2/4	Invoices and receipts re estates (includes Rev. W Dry estate)	1935-1939

3. Correspondence (First Series)

Items 3/1-3/73 are arranged alphabetically by file title

3/1	Advertising	1930
3/2	Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland	1907
3/3	Agricultural Show Council of Tasmania	1903-1937
3/4	Australian Military Forces - 6th Military District Defence Department Training at Elphin Showgrounds	1939-1940
3/5	The Australian Pony Stud Book Society	1939
3/6	The Australian Stud Pig Breeders' Society (Tasmanian Branch)	1937
3/7	The Ayrshire Cattle Herd Book Society (Tasmanian Branch)	1939
3/8	Barry Jagers and Company, Scenic Artists, Fair Promoters and Suppliers	1919
3/9	Berkshire and Yorkshire Society of Australasia	1926
3/10	Bjelke Peterson Brothers Ltd, Annual Demonstration	1930
3/11	Butter	1929-1930
3/12	Cattle	1901-1907
3/13	Cartage of Gear and Fodder, tenders	1932
3/14	Clarke and Sons, florists	1939
3/15	Coop Agreements	1904-1922
3/16	Danbury Park Trotting Club	1926-1932

3/17	Draft Constitution, extracts from Minutes	1898
3/18	Entries (includes sample entry forms)	1907-1931
3/19	Financial records	1899-1909
3/20	Financial statements	1932-1935
3/21	William C Grubb Memorial Trophy, Agreement with R C Ibbot	1920
3/22	Hart Hunt Club Hunting Contest	1921
3/23	Hire Poultry Coop, account	nd
3/24	Judges and stewards	1904-1915
3/25	The Kennel Club of Tasmania	1926-1936
3/26	Launceston Show 1921	1921
3/27	Launceston Show 1928	1928
3/28	Lease of Industrial Hall, Agreement with R H Davies and L T Sutcliffe	1931
3/29	Lease of Industrial Hal, Agreement with Patrician Badminton Club	1930
3/30	Lease of Show Grounds from Alfred Fry	1913
3/31	Letters re Prizes	1930-1933
3/32	List of Guarantors	nd
3/33	List of names and addresses of apple growers	nd
3/34	List for posters	nd
3/35	List for wheat and pea entry forms	nd
3/36	Kathleen Mercer Memorial Trophy	1939
3/37	Midland Agricultural Association	1921-1924
3/38	Northern Tasmanian Trotting Club	1926-1936
3/39	Official luncheon and president's afternoon tea	1927-1929
3/40	Particulars of prize cards, ribbons etc	nd

3/41	Posters etc (includes posters Launceston Show 1928 and Launceston Show 1931)	1911-1932
3/42	Poultry Control Council	1931
3/43	President's afternoon tea	nd
3/44	Printers	1926-1932
3/45	Program of judging, parades, events etc	nd
3/46	Protests	1927-1928
3/47	Prize list, 1929 Show	1929
3/48	Prize list, 1939 Show	1939
3/49	Prizes, ribbons	1932-1934
3/50	Registration	1918-1919
3/51	Reports etc from secretary, sub-committees etc	1911-1930
3/52	The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania	1926-1937
3/53	Schedules	c1914-1935
3/54	Secretary, applications for position	1931
3/55	Show Ball	1914
3/56	Special prizes	1927
3/57	Statement of entries	1900-1906
3/58	Agreements and tenders for printing etc	1932-1935
3/59	Applications for space, plans etc	1926-1931
3/60	Cards, program etc	1914-1919
3/61	Inventories	1908-1922
3/62	Obituary - List of office bearers and council members deceased	1904-1909
3/63	Plan of drainage, water etc	1926
3/64	Quotations	1931-1933
3/65	Tenders for band music	1908-1910

3/66	Tenders for booths, catering etc	1908-1930
3/67	Tenders for buildings	1927-1934
3/68	Tasmanian Government Railways and shipping Department	1922-1935
3/69	Tenders (includes Tenders for chopping blocks; advertising; space at Launceston Show Ground; laying of Trotting Track and alterations to president's room)	1907-1921
3/70	Unanswered Letters - Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society (includes poster annual show of the Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society, held in Launceston)	1912-1921
3/71	Unanswered Letters - Women's Section	1921-1922
3/72	Use of Show Grounds (includes grazing of sheep; Sunday School sport; hockey; lacrosse; football)	c1909-1921
3/73	Wheat, pea and flax entry forms	1928-1933

4. Correspondence (Second Series)

Items 4/1-4/9 are arranged chronologically, the first part of each item containing its index

4/1.1	General correspondence, Part 1 (includes index)	1914
4/1.2	General correspondence, Part 2	1914
4/1.3	General correspondence, Part 3	1914
4/1.4	General correspondence, Part 4	1914
4/2.1	General correspondence, Part 1 (approximately two thirds of this item is missing)	1915
4/2.2	General correspondence, Part 2	1915
4/3.1	General correspondence, Part 1 (includes index)	1915-1916
4/3.2	General correspondence, Part 2	1915-1916
4/3.3	General correspondence, Part 3	1915-1916
4/3.4	General correspondence, Part 4	1915-1916
4/4.1	General correspondence, Part 1 (includes index)	1916-1917

4/4.2	General correspondence, Part 2	1916-1917
4/4.3	General correspondence, Part 3	1916-1917
4/4.4	General correspondence, Part 4	1916-1917
4/5.1	General correspondence, Part 1 (includes index)	1917-1918
4/5.2	General correspondence, Part 2	1917-1918
4/5.3	General correspondence, Part 3	1917-1918
4/5.4	General correspondence, Part 4	1917-1918
4/6.1	General correspondence, Part 1 (includes index)	1918-1919
4/6.2	General correspondence, Part 2	1918-1919
4/6.3	General correspondence, Part 3	1918-1919
4/6.4	General correspondence, Part 4	1918-1919
4/6.5	General correspondence, Part 5	1918-1919
4/7.1	General correspondence, Part 1 (includes index)	1919-1920
4/7.2	General correspondence, Part 2	1919-1920
4/7.3	General correspondence, Part 3	1919-1920
4/7.4	General correspondence, Part 4	1919-1920
4/8.1	General correspondence, A-K, Part 1 (includes index)	1920-1922
4/8.2	General correspondence, A-K, Part 2	1920-1922
4/8.3	General correspondence, A-K, Part 3	1920-1922
4/8.4	General correspondence, A-K, Part 4	1920-1922
4/9.1	General correspondence, L-Z, Part 1 (includes index)	1920-1922
4/9.2	General correspondence, L-Z, Part 2	1920-1922
4/9.3	General correspondence, L-Z, Part 3	1920-1922
4/9.4	General correspondence, L-Z, Part 4	1920-1922

5. Correspondence (Third Series)

Items 5/1-5/12, general correspondence, are arranged alphabetically

5/1	Abey-Brown	1922-1925
5/2	Brown-Dowling	1922-1925
5/3	Dun-Hart	1922-1925
5/4	Hart-Linton	1922-1925
5/5	Linton-NTBF Association	1922-1925
5/6	Nottage-Ring	1922-1925
5/7	RAS of Vic-VDL Coy	1922-1925
5/8	Va-Z and Northern Tasmanian Trotting Club	1915-1922
5/9	Correspondence re Northern Tasmanian Trotting Club; applications for position of secretary; applications for space and side shows; ground lease agreements; Danbury Park Trotting Club and Kennel Council of Tasmania	1922-1925
5/10	Correspondence re judges; printing tenders and quotes; grazing tenders; quotes for straw and tarps and taxation	1922-1925
5/11	Correspondence re show council; special prize lists and letters	1916-1926
5/12	Correspondence re special prize lists; building tenders; catering tenders and publican's booth	1913-1923

6. Correspondence (Fourth Series)

Items 6/1-6/47, general correspondence, are arranged chronologically within each alphabetical letter

6/1	General correspondence, A	1925-1928
6/2	General correspondence, A	1929-1932
6/3	General correspondence, A	1937-1941
6/4	General correspondence, B	1926-1929
6/5	General correspondence, B	1930-1934
6/6	General correspondence, B	1935-1940

6/7	General correspondence, C	1924-1930
6/8	General correspondence, C	1931-1934
6/9	General correspondence, C	1935-1940
6/10	General correspondence, D	1926-1932
6/11	General correspondence, D	1933-1941
6/12	General correspondence, E	1926-1940
6/13	General correspondence, F	1926-1932
6/14	General correspondence, F	1933-1941
6/15	General correspondence, G	1925-1932
6/16	General correspondence, G	1933-1941
6/17	General correspondence, H	1926-1931
6/18	General correspondence, H	1932-1936
6/19	General correspondence, H	1937-1941
6/20	General correspondence, I (includes clipping from the <i>Illustrated Tasmanian Mail</i> 16 October 1929)	1926-1940
6/21	General correspondence, J	1926-1940
6/22	General correspondence, K	1926-1941
6/23	General correspondence, L	1926-1932
6/24	General correspondence, L	1933-1941
6/25	General correspondence, M	1926-1933
6/26	General correspondence, M	1936
6/27	General correspondence, M	1938-1940
6/28	General correspondence, N	1926-1932
6/29	General correspondence, N	1933-1941
6/30	General correspondence, O	1933-1941
6/31	General correspondence, P	1926-1932

6/32	General correspondence, P-Q	1933-1941
6/33	General correspondence, R	1926-1929
6/34	General correspondence, R (includes poster, Launceston Show 1929)	1930-1932
6/35	General correspondence, R	1936
6/36	General correspondence, R	1937-1941
6/37	General correspondence, S	1926-1929
6/38	General correspondence, S	1930-1933
6/39	General correspondence, S	1934-1941
6/40	General correspondence, TUV	1924-1930
6/41	General correspondence, TUV	1931-1934
6/42	General correspondence, TUV	1935-1941
6/43	General correspondence, W	1926-1932
6/44	General correspondence, WXYZ	1933-1941
6/45	General correspondence, Y	1926-1932
6/46	Correspondence re judges and stewards	1926-1930
6/47	Correspondence re judges and stewards	1931-1938

7. Correspondence (Fifth Series)

7/1	Correspondence re lease of show grounds to Armed Forces; Dry's Estate etc (includes balance sheets etc and proposed constitution)	1938-1954
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8. Annual Reports

8/1	Annual report and statement of accounts	1937-1938
8/2	Annual report and statement of accounts	1940-1941
8/3	Annual report and statement of accounts	1943-1944
8/4	Annual report and statement of accounts	1944-1945
8/5	Annual report and statement of accounts	1945-1946
8/6	Annual report and statement of accounts	1949

8/7	Annual report and statement of accounts	1950
8/8	Annual report and statement of accounts	1951
8/9	Annual report and statement of accounts	1952
8/10	Annual report and statement of accounts	1953
8/11	Annual report and statement of accounts for year ended 31 December 1954	1954
8/12	Annual report and statement of accounts for year ended 31 December 1971	1971
8/13	Annual report and statement of accounts for year ended 31 December 1972	1972
8/14	Annual report and statement of accounts for year ended 31 December 1973	1973

9. Registers of Members

9/1	List of subscribers	1908-1914
9/2	List of subscribers	1914-1920
9/3	List of Subscribers	1920-1924
9/4	Members register	1924-1930
9/5	Members register	1930-1936

10. Records of Prizes

10/1	Register of prizes awarded	1899-1901
10/2	Tasmania, list of cash prizes, 1939 Show, dogs	1939
10/3	List of cash prizes, 1939 Show, Women's Industries	1939
10/4	Schedule of prizes	1967
10/5	Schedule of prizes	1968
10/6	Schedule of prizes	1969

11. Miscellaneous Items

11/1	Ephemera (includes letterheads and circular letters)	1914-c1921
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11/2	Entry Form for homecrafts; photography and floral	1969
11/3	Centenary year Launceston Show lady's pass	1972
11/4	'The Story of our Show', typescript by John Gunning	c1950
11/5	Tasmanian Farmers' Tour of New Zealand, report by S G Green	nd
11/6	The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania (Hobart) report for the twelve months ended 31December 1947	1947
11/7	Scrapbook of newspaper advertisements and reports of the Launceston Show from unidentified newspapers	1908-1919
11/8	[Australian Pig Breeders Society, Tasmanian Branch], list of nominations for committee, office bearers 1939-1986; (1971 annual report of Australian Pig Breeders Society, Tasmanian Branch, lose inside front cover)	1939-1986
11/9	17 colour photographs and 2 b&w photographs, with negatives, of 1991 Launceston Show (Show and city street scenes)	nd
11/10	Royal National Agricultural & Pastoral Society, <i>Tasmania on parade "88": a bicentennial project</i> , Launceston, 1988 (includes a history of the Launceston Show)	1988

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, CHS 45, item 9/1

QVMAG, Community History, Documentation series, 1999.P.0542

QVMAG, Community History, 1993.OH.42 A-D

QVMAG, Community History, QVM 5, 630.001.066, 'Launceston Show Society'

QVMAG, Community History, LCC (eg LCC 3, item 39/1.8 includes the Society's Annual Report 1936-1937)

Launceston Reference Library, Local History Collection, Western Agricultural Society Papers, 1898-1971 (manuscript)