

# CULTIVATE WA

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA DECEMBER 2016 | VOLUME 9



## Rural Ambassador

WITH A PASSION FOR SUSTAINABLE, PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE

## Heads Up

THE IMPORTANCE OF FARMERS AND FARMING TO THIS STATE



ROYAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY  
of WA



# CULTIVATE WA

December 2016 | Volume 9

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello and welcome to the last edition of Cultivate for this year.

We hope you enjoy this online issue which brings you some of the highlights of the IGA Perth Royal Show, the competitions, interactive and innovative displays and the valuable contributions those within the agricultural industry are making.

We pay tribute to one of the stalwarts of the cookery pavilion, Gaena Duncan, who has been involved with the cookery competition for 32 years. Mrs Duncan, the chief steward of the competition, has decided to hang up her white coat for good!

We also have the latest news regarding the scholarships recently presented to students studying agricultural subjects which will make life at university financially easier.



**Dr Rob Wilson, President**

The Royal Agricultural Society of WA

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# Rural Ambassador of the Year

**A mid-west farmer with a passion for sustainable, progressive agriculture has been named Rural Ambassador of the Year**

**B**rad Kupsch, 29, representing Chapman Valley Agricultural Society, is a mixed grain and livestock farmer at Tara Limousin Stud and Black Tara Angus, based in the Allanooka region.

In his new role, Mr Kupsch is keen to inspire children and young adults to embrace the agricultural lifestyle in an array of professions.

"I want farmers to be viewed with the same professionalism as doctors, lawyers and other top end occupations," he said.

"Not enough credit is given to farmers for the good work they do," said Mr Kupsch who believes diversification creates strength and opportunity.

"When a grain grower diversifies into beef, his business gains diversity and strength from the ever tumultuous commodity markets," he said.

"More diverse enterprises call for more advisory specialists to help, such as agronomists, vets and nutritionists.

"A calling for more skilled labour and advisory positions would not only create interest in agricultural uni degrees, but jobs located in rural settings."

Mr Kupsch said greater intensification creates greater room for more siblings to return to farm and more employment opportunities in general.

He said it could lead to gains not just for the farmer, but the wider community.

Gains include more people in town, more productive use of land rather than just larger scale expansion, and

increasing the chances of farmers selling their story better.

Mr Kupsch was one of five finalists competing for the honour to be this year's Rural Ambassador.

South-West group finalist Stephanie Kennaugh, 20, representing the Margaret River & Districts Agricultural Society, was runner-up.

A sales manager with Margaret River Venison Farm, Ms Kennaugh said as a fourth generation farmer she sees enormous untapped potential for agribusiness.

"But to utilise this we need to change," she said. "Reduce red tape, encourage the innovation of youth and reassess our mindset."

The other contenders were Jill Hayes, 23, representing Quairading Agricultural Society, Jessica Fleay, 24, of Beverley Agricultural Society, and Kara Dohle, of Wagin Agricultural Society.

The Rural Ambassador Award is about discovering the next generation of rural leaders, passionate young adults who can represent and promote their community, region and State.

It is supported by the Perth Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough, and coordinated by the Royal Agricultural Society of WA.

The competition has five heats held in regional areas with 63 agricultural societies across the State taking part in the competition. Mr Kupsch will represent WA at the National Finals in 2017.

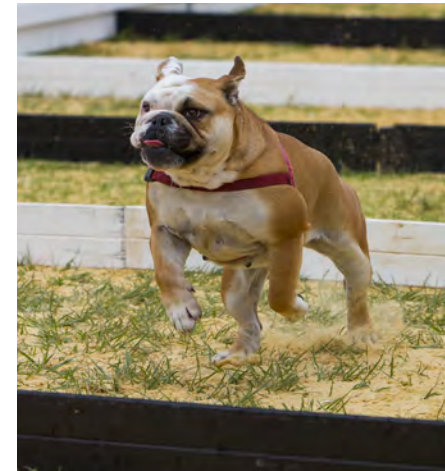






# Show connection

The 2016 IGA Perth Royal Show has been a great celebration of family and friends and the importance of agriculture to the State



**T**he IGA Perth Royal Show is a long-awaited, annual event which gives visitors the opportunity to experience the best Western Australia has to offer.

Showgoers enjoyed the traditional Show attractions, new entertainment program and the interactive and innovative educational exhibits.

“The Show is a reminder of the importance of farmers and farming to the State. We hope children who came through the gates left inspired to take up careers within agriculture,” said CEO Peter Cooper.

“Our interactive displays highlighted the quality, security and sustainability of locally produced food, as well as the technology that supports agriculture in WA.

“The new interactive Walk Through WA attraction, particularly, was a big hit with families.”

Other attractions that struck a chord with showgoers included Farm 2 Food, Discover Dirt, Rio Tinto’s massive dump truck, rabbit agility and DockDogs.

**“The Show is a reminder of the importance of farmers and farming to this State. We hope children who came through the gates left inspired to take up careers within agriculture.”**





# End of an era in cookery pavilion

After 23 years as chief steward of the cookery competition at the IGA Perth Royal Show, Gaena Duncan is hanging up her white coat for good

Mrs Duncan's involvement with the Show dates back 32 years ago to 1983, when she first joined the cookery committee.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed every bit of my time at the Show," she said.

"The best part was meeting so many people and encouraging people to come along and exhibit their skills."

Mrs Duncan, who worked as a home economics teacher before retiring from the workforce aged 60, particularly enjoyed it when past students turned up during the Show to say hello to her.

"One year one of my students won the plum jam category, which was really nice."

Another highlight was when former ABC radio announcer Russell Woolf won first prize for his rum balls.

"Every year something different happened and a different theme emerged."

There were nearly 1,000 entries in the cookery competition this year and Mrs Gifford said the quality of jams and preserves was exceptional.

The fruitcakes and puddings were also excellent, and a new steam punk category in the decorated cake section had attracted entries of a world class standard, she said.

Her replacement is Anette Gifford, who has been involved in cake decorating for about 40 years and has been helping Mrs Duncan as a steward at the Show for many years.

Mrs Gifford said Mrs Duncan had done a lot to make the competition the benchmark of cookery excellence that it is today and she has big shoes to fill.

"It is very daunting but very exciting," she said.



Above: L-R Anette Gifford and outgoing chief steward Gaena Duncan



Above: Clockwise L-R - Taste WA Pavilion, Perth Royal Flower Show, Governor's Cup winners the Squiers family and Bachelor Richie Strahan with Alex Nation



IGA gave away 66,000 shortbread cookies in their kitchen. 2,000 punnets of strawberries, 1,000 punnets of blueberries and 1,000 punnets of tomatoes were sold during the eight-days.

The new **Taste WA** precinct was a big hit, with showgoers getting through 4,000 chicken wings, three tonnes of Harvey Beef ribs, 4,500 sliders, 100 litres of award-winning WA olive oil, 100kgs of Harvey cheeses, 2 tonnes of premium fries, 50kgs of WA lemons and 100kgs of lettuce, spinach and rocket.

A kid and a lamb were born in the **PETstock Animal Nursery** during Show. 10,000 prizes including trophies, ribbons and certificates were awarded.

At the Coastal display, about 2,800 people coloured in a fish to be scanned in and displayed on a screen.



8,000 people had their photo taken on a tractor and 60 kilos of wheat was churned through the wheat grinder.

Rock art was popular at the Noongyar Language Centre display, where over 6,000 rocks were painted.

The Mid-West group gave away 500 packets of wildflower seeds.

Around 2,000 people had their photo taken at the **Rio Tinto** display celebrating their 50th year of operation. Nick Fredriksen, a one-armed woodchopper from Queensland, picked up eight prizes for his skills.

The **Creatures Great and Small** pavilion this year introduced rabbit agility. Chinnock, a five-month-old bunny delighted crowds with his jumping prowess.

Quairading farming family Squiers

and Sons won the equivalent of the Oscars – carrying off the highly sought after **Governor's Cup** at the IGA Perth Royal Show for the sixth time.

Midland Junction Poultry Society won first place in the inter-poultry club competition at the Show, continuing its unbroken run of wins since 2012.

Bachelor Richie Strahan attended the Show with his chosen one Alex Nation. Rejected bachelorette Rachael Gouvignon was also there, volunteering in the pet rescue stand with her brother. She visited the **Perth Royal Flower Show** and **Police Pavilion**, where she graciously gave out roses.

A fitness competition between police recruits, Rural Ambassador Brad Kupsch and another farmer, saw the police win hands down.





# Walking into the future

**Alaric Korb, 22, of Wanneroo, designed an innovative and interactive display showcasing the coastal region for the IGA Perth Royal Show. Part of a new Walk Through WA attraction; it replaced the long-running District Displays competition**

The innovative, educational and interactive showcase did not deter from the State's diverse regions, but the competition element was removed.

The Coastal Group\* of affiliated agricultural societies took full advantage of the greater space on offer with a display eight times larger than in previous years.

Mr Korb designed an interactive walk through exhibit incorporating a farming simulator, augmented sandboxes and several media presentations.



An architect student of UWA, Mr Korb ushered in a new era for the displays last year with his augmented app that helped the Coastal Group take out top honours.

He said one of the biggest challenges was creating an exhibit incorporating leading-edge technology with primary produce.

Mum Peta Korb, who is the coordinator of Coastal Group, said the group was ecstatic at the opportunities that opened up to them with the removal of the rules that went with the competition.

"We were keen to give Show patrons an experience they were not able to get anywhere else," she said.

And she wasn't wrong. This pavilion was one of the most walked-through and admired exhibits of the Show during the eight-day event.

The District Displays in the Centenary Pavilion have been a Show favourite since their first appearance in 1927. They lapsed during the war years then began again in 1958.

Whereas in previous years the displays have been purely visual this

year, as well as a feast for the eyes, the exhibits gave showgoers the chance to be hands-on and interactive.

The rich history of the District Displays was also featured.

\*Coastal region covers Armadale, Boddington, Canning, Chittering, Gingin, Kalamunda, Mundaring, Murray, Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Stirling, Swan and Wanneroo.

**Above:** Around 2,000 letters were written to thank a farmer, including one from Governor Kerry Sanderson.



# Community spirit recognised

Decades of volunteering and community service has earned Moora farmer Desmond John Seymour the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia's 2016 Rural Community Achiever Award

Mr Seymour was nominated by the Central Midlands Agricultural Society.

The Moora Frail Aged Lodge and Moora Men's Shed will be beneficiaries of the \$2,000 his win allows him to contribute to organisations of his choosing.

A successful wheat and sheep farmer for more than 60 years, Mr Seymour has now retired to the Perth suburb of Kensington but still spends 50 per cent of his time on the farm.

A stalwart of the Midlands district, Mr Seymour was recognised in the

Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2008 for his services to the community.

A backbone of the Miling Primary School P&C Mr Seymour was awarded a certificate of recognition from the director general of education in 1988 for 23 years continued service to the school.

Mr Seymour served as a councillor in the Shire of Moora from 1991-2003, was elected to deputy shire president in 1994 and made a freeman in 2006.

Mr Seymour said he found his time on the Shire very rewarding.

"I enjoyed dealing with people and you pick up a lot of knowledge," he said.

He has contributed his time to golf, football and tennis clubs in his local area, including as a committee member of the WA Country Football League from 1991 to 2004.

"When you live in a community with a smaller population, volunteering is very important," Mr Seymour said.

"If people don't do these jobs, they don't get done. If rural people want anything, they often have to go get it themselves."

Mr Seymour is still active in the community, particularly with the WA Farmers Federation. "I don't seem to have any free time; I'm busy all the time."

His goal is to continue to work with the local community and to encourage others to work together to promote strong growth, ensuring the survival of small towns.

Married to Jean Lawrence in 1960, Mr Seymour has four sons and a daughter and 14 grandchildren.

After the death of his father, at age 15 Mr Seymour left boarding school at Wesley College in Perth to return home to help his mother and sister run the farm, the start of a lifetime of service for his family and the rural community.

Coordinated by RASWA, the Rural Community Achiever award encourages individuals who have volunteered their time to make their communities strong and vital – a celebration of our unsung heroes.

The Rural Community Achiever receives \$2,000 cash plus a further \$2,000 is donated to a community project of their choice.



## Winning wines tightly contested

Competition was fierce at this year's Perth Royal Wine Show as West Australian wines fought for the top drop awards against their eastern counterparts

With 26 judges determining the medals from 2,119 exhibits provided by 299 entrants, West Australians held their own.

Houghton Wines, Swan Valley, Caversham's Mandoon Estate, Margaret River's Xanadu and Watershed Premium Wines as well as Cowaramup's Heydon Estate clinched the major awards.

The eastern states winners included Penfolds Wines Pty Ltd, Australian Vintage Ltd, Bleasdale Vineyards, Eddystone Point, W Salter & Son, Coldstream Hills, Berrigan Wines and Pewsey Vale.

The medal tally continued with Tahbilk Pty Ltd, Brown Brothers Milawa Vineyard and McWilliams Wines Group Ltd.

According to international wine judge Sarah Jane Evans, Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, from London, the Perth Royal Wine Show has been a great opportunity for her to gain an up-to-date overview of the best of Australian wines.

"It's been a real privilege to be a judge at the Perth Royal Wine Show. Producers should be reassured that the event is exceptionally well organised. I really enjoyed judging with judges and

associates of the highest calibre.

"I was particularly delighted to return to WA and judge at the Perth Royal Wine Show because of the exceptional quality of WA wines. These are wines with a deserved international reputation. Plus, there was the lure of tasting across Australia's wines.

"The chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon showed elegant purity with lovely fruit. The best shiraz also impressed me by their balance and restraint.

"Beyond the 'classics', I really enjoyed tasting through the WA Verdelhos which I believe have real consumer potential as an alternative white varietal. The quality of the Malbecs was another discovery. The red blends were fascinating: my favourite was definitely the expertly blended Tempranillo/Graciano. Top quality traditional method sparkling wine, unique Tawnies and Muscats wines with Provenance that age beautifully: Australia has it all!

"Judging is undoubtedly technical but in the end it is all about pleasure and rewarding the best wines."





# Making a difference

Two university students, Haylee Gooding and Reuben Welke, will find the financial aspect of university life slightly easier following monetary awards presented to them by the Royal Agricultural Society of WA

Annually, RASWA assists young people studying agricultural subjects by contributing to their tertiary costs through the Australian Council of Agricultural Societies, Coca-Cola Regional Scholarships program. Each of this year's winners receives \$5,000 which they will use toward their studies.

Haylee is in her third year of a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Agricultural Science and Botany at the University of Western Australia. She is a former student of St Mary's Anglican Girls' School.

Having grown up on the family farm in the Ord irrigation scheme, Haylee's passion for agriculture was sealed. Despite juggling work as a dental assistant and student and as a volunteer at the Shenton Dog's Refuge, Haylee still ensures she spends time on the farm helping during busy harvest periods.

As a firm advocate for sustainability, Haylee argued against the rezoning of land and the significant biosecurity risks that could be posed for agriculture in the East-Kimberley region.

"I spent a considerable amount of time assisting with research and the writing of council applications to

study at Murdoch University - Bachelor of Science - Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

This young man considers his close association with the agricultural industry through his family's sheep, cropping and beef enterprises to be a privilege. Having first gained a Bachelor of Aquatic Science (Coastal Zone Management) at Curtin University of Technology, Reuben decided to pursue a career within veterinary medicine and enrolled at UWA.

A member of RASWA, Reuben has been involved with the IGA Perth Royal Show since 2013 in the area of exhibiting stud beef cattle, commercial hoof and hook steers and heifers. An associate judge of the carcass evaluation section of the competitions in 2015, Reuben, at the request of RASWA, came back this year as a steward and judge.

Having represented Murdoch University as a team member at the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Association, Reuben returned this year to coach the 2016 Murdoch team.

"The ICMJ competition program has provided the foundations on which I have built my passion for the Australian

**"I feel that there has not been a better time for Australian agricultural graduates to become an integral part of building the country's agricultural industry."**

advocate against the rezoning decision to protect this valuable land. Standing against our local council was quite a challenge, however, I believe it was a necessary step in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector of Kununurra.

"Winning the scholarship would allow me to continue my studies in the field of agriculture, beginning with an Honours degree in agriculture. I aim to do postgraduate study as I believe it is important for Australian agriculture to evolve and adopt new technologies," said Haylee.

Reuben, a former Perth Modern student, is completing his fourth year of

red meat industry," said Reuben.

"Through competing on the meat judging team, which has allowed me to travel interstate as well as internationally, I have had the opportunity to experience many different aspects of the red meat industry first hand as well as to appreciate what role the Australian agricultural industry plays on a national and international level.

"I feel that there has not been a better time for Australian agricultural graduates to become an integral part of building the country's agricultural industry, in order to become a part of the greater global salutation to ensure food security."





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