Congratulations

Congratulations to RAS Member Bruce Jackson from Busselton on winning the IGA $100 gift voucher promoted in the last edition.

Well deserved award

A purr-fect award for Ann Chandler who was one of five recipients recognised for 50 fantastic years as a volunteer at a presentation ceremony at Parliament House, recently this month.

With five decades of volunteering behind her Ann, who says she is now retired, has no intention of giving up what she calls “my service to community.”

Having started at the RAS in 1961 as a volunteer Ann has not switched alliance – as a member of the Cat Committee and Chief Steward of the Cat Show – Ann intends to stay put!

And with about 500 cats being preened, presented and judged each year during the Show, Ann never gets tired of the felines - formerly known as cult animals in ancient Egypt - and their haughty ways!
“Cats have personality and I just love them,” says Ann who also breeds Persians and Exotic cats (the latter are short-haired Persians) from her Kardinya home.

It is not really surprising to learn Ann, a gregarious Scot who has made her home in Western Australia for too many years to mention, has fitted volunteering around her busy professional and family life.

As a nurse for more than 40 years, Ann worked in palliative care and hospitals including Royal Perth, King Edward and the Princess Margaret Children’s Hospital, before going back to study veterinary science and doing stints as a vet nurse.

Although she no longer nurses Ann is called upon by her vet daughter to help out occasionally at her Margaret River practice.

**Young judges do WA proud**

We would like to say ‘Well Done’ to four hard-working and competitive young judges who each laid claim to events in the Federal Council of Agricultural Societies national competition for young judges held in early December in New Zealand.

Lachlan Fry of Benger, took out a first in the Dairy Cattle Judging; Jessica Perrin, Esperance, won the Merino Fleece Judging while Felicity Holtzman, East Vic Park, walked away with a second and Belinda Bannister, Orelia, carried off a third in the Meat Breeds Sheep.
It was music to our ears when the annual two-day Stereosonic concert held recently and which attracted 50,000 people (almost 20,000 more than in 2012) was hailed a resounding success.

“Stereosonic is the first of three concerts held at the Showground during the 2013/14 music festival season from November to March,” says Peter Cooper, RAS Chief Operating Officer, “and we have had positive feedback about patron behaviour, traffic management and crowd control.”

Part of the success can be attributed to the work the RAS has put in with the Town of Claremont, WA Police and the promoters in the months leading up to the event to ensure it ran safely and smoothly.  

Mr Cooper said it was pleasing that the majority of Claremont residents were supportive of the current number of concerts held at Claremont Showground as resident surveys undertaken by the RAS and the Town of Claremont clearly showed.

“The concerts are important cultural events, attracting internationally and nationally acclaimed artists and they also bring significant economic benefits to WA providing jobs to West Australians in the arts and hospitality industries, as well as supporting tourism.

“We know that Stereosonic and other concerts boost demand for hotel accommodation – up to 3,000 hotel nights - and each one adds $3 million to WA’s economy according to a report by Pracsy.

“We are proud of the fact that the handful of music festivals held here contributes $16 million in annual economic impact to WA,” said Mr Cooper.

A fond farewell

We are waving goodbye to the crème de la crème of the dairy competitions – former Councillor John Watson who handed in his ‘resignation’ recently following a decision to move to Queensland to be closer to his family.

With 42 years of experience within the Australian Dairy Industry John was well suited to the position of Councillor in Charge of Dairy Products as well as being Chief Steward for the Committee for the past eight years. This affable man also was CIC of the Agricultural Hall of Fame and indeed, helped to establish this important part of WA’s history!

Elected to the RAS Council in March 2010 John says his biggest regret is not having joined the Council earlier.

The former National Foods Ltd State Manager for WA, Victoria and Tasmania and Consultant, John has recently relinquished his position as President of the Royal Perth Hospital Patient Transport Association Inc where he was responsible for ensuring the safe travel of more than 25,000 patients annually to the Royal Perth Hospital out-patient clinics coordinating 100 volunteer drivers and support staff.
Forthcoming events at Claremont Showground

Sunday 2 February - Big Day Out  
Monday 3 March - Soundwave  
8 - 9 March - Pool & Spa  
20 - 24 March - Perth Caravan & Camping Show

Breaking for Christmas

Please note the RAS Administration Office is closed from midday 20 December 2013 opening again on 6 January 2014. We will be bringing you all the latest and best from around the RAS traps, early next year.

'Tis the season to harvest good cheer  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!