

Members Lounge November 2013

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Governor's Cup seals success

Wow is all we can exclaim having handed the Governor's Cup, for the third time since 2009, to the Quairading farming family Squiers and Sons on the closing day of the 2013 IGA Perth Royal Show.

Presented by Governor Malcolm McCusker, the highly sought-after and valued trophy is a

testament to the two plus decades the family has been showing their SAMM and Poll Dorset sheep at the annual eight-day event that brings the country to the city.

The Governor's Cup is awarded to the exhibitor with the most points in the livestock exhibits including sheep, cattle, horse, goat and alpaca and rewards both excellence and consistency while also promoting the quest for higher standards.

The family-run stud, Shirlee-Downs, comprises Chris, wife Fay, sons Sascha and Adrian and daughters-in-law Kylie and Kelsie.



Galloping away with volunteer of the year

For her whole life Kalamunda resident Ms Diane Bennit has lived and breathed horses. Having competed and won at the Perth Royal Show at the age of eight and now, aged 72, Diane brings years of experience from the equestrian world to her voluntary role at this annual event.

Her dedication over more than a decade has earned her the title of 2013 Volunteer of the Year for the Royal Agricultural Society of WA. Diane was presented with her award at a ceremony on the opening night of the IGA Perth Royal Show.



Hard-hitting farmer wins top award

A Kukerin farmer who has been making headlines over the past few months campaigning to put agriculture back on the political menu and advocating for equity in rural and regional Australia has laid claim to yet another accomplishment – that of the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia - 2013 Rural Community Achiever.

Mary Nenke, joint owner of the export aquaculture business Cambinata Yabbies, farmer, mother of six children and 12 grandchildren was awarded the title at a special presentation luncheon held during the IGA Perth Royal Show. Mary was presented with her award by Hon Bill Marmion MLA for Nedlands.

From a broad-acre farming enterprise Cambinata Yabbies with Mary at the helm, is a sophisticated export business that includes a state of the art, 'live' facility and export kitchen for aquaculture products.

Show wrap up

The 2013 IGA Perth Royal Show was a brilliant success - enticing 450,000 (our second best figures since the first event was held), despite the adverse climatic conditions and the AFL Grand Final - according to RAS President Hugh Harding.

"We have had wonderful feedback from parents about our new Farm 2 Food exhibit which really engaged children about where their food comes from and giving them a richer appreciation of farmers and a deeper knowledge of the origin of the food they eat," says Mr Harding.

The business end of the Show came off trumps as did the exhibitions. The entertainment kept showgoers enthralled throughout the eight-day extravaganza.

"The RAS invests \$3 million annually to coordinate competitions promoting agriculture, food and the arts for this great community event," added Mr Harding.



Scholarships making a difference

Five University students will find the financial aspect of university life slightly easier following

monetary awards recently presented to them by the Governor at the Opening of the IGA Perth Royal Show.

Annually the RAS 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 \$2,000 that they will use toward their studies.

The recipients are:

Courtney Wright of Redcliffe; Alicia Kemp of Hamilton Hill; Bridie Luers of Kensington; Maddison McNeil of East Cannington and Leroy (Leo) McBride of Warnboro.

Craving for chocolate!

Members can be in the draw to win a Lindt Chocolate Showbag valued at \$80 by emailing name and membership number to membcoord@raswa.org.au by Thursday 21 November 2013. Winner must be able to collect the Showbag from the RAS Office, Claremont Showground.

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