



# RASC NEWS

August 2013

Patron HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT  
President: HRH The Princess Royal  
Deputy President: David Thomas

## THE LAUNCH OF THE 2014 CONFERENCE

The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) will welcome delegates to Brisbane, Australia in 2014 for the 26th Commonwealth Agricultural Conference (CAC).

Lord Vestey officially announced the Conference dates (21st - 24th October, 2014) and location at the Sydney Royal Easter Show Interstate Royals Lunch in Sydney on Sunday 24 March 2013. During this meeting he discussed the conference theme and focus. The 26th Conference will be held at the Brisbane Showgrounds, home of the Royal Queensland Show, Queensland's largest agricultural event –where the country meets the city.

The RNA has recently opened its new world class conference facility, the Royal International Convention Centre (RICC), as part of its \$2.9 billion Showground regeneration project. The stunning architecturally-designed conference centre incorporates the old industrial pavilion, originally built at the Brisbane Showground in the 1930's. The building's distinctive character was preserved by retaining and enhancing the existing heritage facades and through a modern interpretation of the previous saw-tooth roof profile. The timber from the 1937 Industrial Pavilion's mezzanine has also been incorporated into the new building's design being used on the internal stairwell and hall signage.

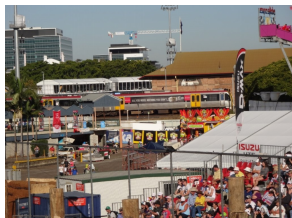
An important project for the State of Queensland, the Brisbane Showgrounds Regeneration Project safeguards the legacy of the site and the annual agricultural show, while also transforming the grounds into a lifestyle and cultural hub for the community to access year-round. Unlike any other venue in Australia, RICC is strategically positioned beside a number of distinctive indoor and outdoor venues and spaces including the Showground's 20,000 seat Main Arena, large scale festival and amusement areas, and stables and accommodation for large animals.



Offering a distinctive and uniquely Australian event and convention experience, the Royal International Convention Centre is attracting significant interest nationally and internationally. **Brisbane - Australia's new world city— with a population of two million people Brisbane is a leading destination for major events, international education, business and investment driven by innovation all while maintaining an easy-going attitude and a much-envied lifestyle.**

Clear blue skies and sunshine encourage exploration of the well planned series of paths and bridges connecting the city centre to urban villages that nestle the river's edge. Each urban village has its own distinct personality bursting with shopping precincts, cafes and restaurants. Brisbane is the gateway to the natural beauty of pristine coastlines and rugged mountain ranges.

With many areas less than an hour away, it is easy to continue the love affair with the Queensland outdoor lifestyle. Discover an endless summer of island getaways with sparkling blue water and towering sand dunes with some of Australia's best surfing, hiking, swimming, scuba-diving, snorkelling and whale watching.



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## RASC AGM APPOINTMENTS 2013

The RASC Annual General Meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at the Royal Cornwall Show, in the presence of the Society's President, HRH The Princess Royal. The AGM was chaired by Mr Allan Murray, in the absence of Lord Vestey.

The appointments for 2013-2014 are as follows:

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron  
 HRH The Princess Royal, President  
 David Thomas, Deputy President (RNA)  
 Lord Vestey, Chairman  
 Andrew Gilmour, Honorary Treasurer  
 Michael Lambert, Honorary Secretary  
 Simon Orpwood, Honorary Press Secretary  
 Leona Dargis, Honorary NG Facilitator

Newly elected Trustees:

Louis Fell (Royal Agricultural Society of England)  
 Colin McDonald (Royal Ulster Agricultural Society)  
 Edwin White (Royal Bath & West of England Society)



At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, David Thomas gave a presentation about the 26<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Agricultural Conference, Brisbane 2014.

### RASC Next Generation Report, Trustee Meeting, Wednesday 5th June 2013 By Leona Dargis, NF Facilitator for RASC

"It is my pleasure to report on behalf of the Next Generation group. During the past few months a lot of work has been done in conclusion of the 25th CAC in Zambia and in preparations for the 4th NG Understanding and Assistance Mission to take place in Malawi.

The NG group has been able to re-connect on Facebook and I am happy to announce that the Zambian NG's have started an NG Tree Planting Initiative in rural Zambia. I have been working with Barbara Huddart with updating the new website. NG reports and additional links will be made available to present a clean, informative and user friendly online platform. The NG trustees will continue to work with the RASC in keeping up-to-date material online.

#### Mission to Malawi

With regards to the next NG Mission in Malawi, I have compiled some grant proposals to help fund delegates from developing countries.

If successful, the pre-Mission will take place in April 2014 and would be for a maximum number of 20 NG delegates. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Mission to Malawi, please email [rasc@commagshow.org](mailto:rasc@commagshow.org).

#### ANNA NAWA RECEIVES A CHEQUE ON BEHALF OF RASC

Here is Anna Nawa receiving a cheque from John Parrish Chairman of the Marshall Papworth Trust on behalf of the RASC with money from the conference in Zambia, handed over to contribute to the washing block and toilets.

Anna has been an NG for many years and is a Senior Agriculture supervisor responsible for 4800 small scale farmers in conjunction with extension officers. Working with agricultural camps, youth groups, women's groups and different cooperatives. Anna has a farm where she holds demonstrations and training days.

Anna's farm was visited on the pre conference tour last years and the NG's painted a wall!!



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## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF KENYA (ASK)

The Agricultural Society of Kenya is the largest and most active RASC member in East Africa. Founded in Nairobi in 1901 when Kenya was still a British colony they held their first show in 1902.

The society expanded in the 1920's with Branches in Nakuru in the Central rift Valley in 1920 and Eldoret in 1925. Further expansion occurred after the Second World War, but the main expansion took place after Kenya obtained independence in 1962 with branches opening across the country.

Today the society hosts over 18 shows across the country attracting almost 2.5 million people. In addition to these shows the society organises a National Rally for the Young Farmers Club of Kenya, a national camp for young farmers and The National Ploughing Contest. In addition to this the society also organises a number of conferences including a 3 day National teachers Conference in Nairobi.

The largest show is The Nairobi International Trade Fair which is held at the Society's Show grounds in Nairobi and attracts more than 450k visitors including many from overseas. The Society's showground extends to over 250 acres and The Agricultural society of Kenya has just signed a "memorandum of understanding" to jointly develop part of the show grounds.

## THE QUEENSLAND SHOW CIRCUIT

The Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Inc. (QCAS) based in Queensland supports 128 Agricultural Show Societies throughout Queensland.

Along with providing support through lobbying Government, providing Corporate Governance assistance and standardising rules for competitions QCAS also hosts the State finals for a number of competitions that are held throughout Queensland at Local and Regional level. These competitions include:

- Miss Showgirl Awards
- Ute Muster
- Kids in Natural Fibres
- Natural Fibre Creations
- Rural Ambassador
- Dark Rich Fruit Cake
- Young Judges and Paraders

These competitions generate a large amount of interest throughout the state with all eleven (11) regions usually represented at the State Finals held during the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) in August each year.

QCAS also supports a very proactive Next Generation Sub Committee that has been busy developing a "Young Farmers Challenge" that is sparking some great interest throughout our shows.

As an outcome of the RASC Conference in Zambia, the Next Gen group are also beginning fund raising to provide a bursary for an exchange between the Harare Agricultural Show and QCAS. We are yet to work out the details on this but are looking forward to working closely with Les Mallet and the Harare Show in 2014.

Now being well into our Show Season (Feb – Sep) we have held approximately 83 of our 128 Shows. The committees of all of these Societies have done an excellent job and we have had some great reports throughout the state. The highlight being the small community of Pioneer Valley (pop. 400) breaking their record with an attendance of 18,000 at their small one day Agricultural Show last weekend.

I would like to congratulate the RASC on their updated Website which looks great and wish all the RASC Members success in their endeavours. I note that the RASC AGM was held during the Royal Cornwall Show, I hope this meeting was a resounding success and I look forward to meeting with the delegates in the near future.

For any further information on the items above or the Queensland Shows please feel free to review

[www.queenslandshows.com.au](http://www.queenslandshows.com.au) which is currently being updated or email me at [ceo@queenslandshows.com.au](mailto:ceo@queenslandshows.com.au)

**Written by Mark Bryant, CEO, QCAS**



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## BECOME A FRIEND OF RASC

If you not already are, I do hope you will consider becoming a Friend and assisting the RASC continue it's valuable work, in particular helping the Next Generation, our future agricultural leaders. Only £25 per annum.

The benefits are:

- Advance details of the biennial conference
- Copies of occasional papers
- An invitation to the RASC AGM
- Regular up-dates of the Society's work
- Receipt of the quarterly newsletter

If interested email [rasc@commagshow.org.uk](mailto:rasc@commagshow.org.uk)

## WELCOME NEW FOREST!!

The New Forest Agricultural Show Society became RASC's newest member early this year. Based near Brockenhurst in Hampshire the Society is responsible for holding the New Forest and Hampshire.

The first show was held in 1921 and the Society celebrated the holding of its 80<sup>th</sup> show in 2006. For many years the show moved around the New forest area before settling at New Park just outside Brockenhurst in the heart of the New Forest National Park.

The three day show is held at the end of July and beginning of August and attracts more than 100,00 people including a good number of tourists visiting the National Park and the nearby beaches on the Hampshire coast. The show not surprisingly has a strong equine section but also an excellent display of livestock and horticulture. There is also an excellent display of local foods and many attractions with a strongly New Forest theme. In a part of the showground called the New Forest Corner the society in conjunction with the various National Park organisations puts on an excellent exhibit explaining the history of the National Park and all attractions that the public can see whilst visiting the area.

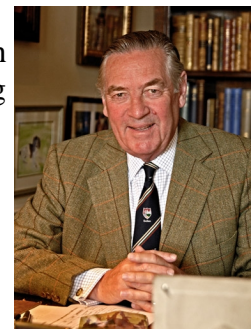
## Happy Birthday, Philip Bolam—90 YEARS

We hear Mr Philip Bolam celebrated a very special birthday recently and we at RASC would like to wish him a very happy birthday.

## GET WELL WISHES

Everyone at RASC would like to wish Lord Vestey a speedy recovery following his riding accident.

Get well soon.



## THE NEWLOOK RASC WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING

The newly designed RASC website is now up and running. You can find us at [www.therasc.com](http://www.therasc.com) where you will find a variety of RASC information on Member Societies to 'Latest News' where you can keep up-to-date on upcoming shows. Please let us have your feedback on the new site and feel free to pass on any news articles!



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