

Some History of the Wagga Wagga Show – the first 20 years (1865-1885)



Above: View of Wagga Wagga Showground. Courtesy of the Museum of the Riverina, (BGS.2007_258).

Some History of the Wagga Wagga Show – the first 20 years.

An early call for the formation of a Pastoral & Agricultural Association to be formed at Wagga Wagga coincided with the annual race meet at that place in November 1864.¹

Formation of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association (MPA) was initiated at a meeting of pastoralists and townsmen, held in the Australian Hotel on Monday the 29th May, 1865.²

The next step took place on the 1st July 1865, when it was resolved to form the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association. A move to add the term ‘Agricultural’ to the nomenclature was defeated with the casting vote of the chairman.³

A small committee met, at the Australian Hotel, on the 18th July 1865, for the purpose of framing a set of association rules. Present at the meeting were, Messrs Leitch (chair); Davidson; Rand; Paul; Higgins; and Baylis (police magistrate).⁴

A set of rules was agreed upon and these were to be printed in time for the first general meeting, which was scheduled to be held on the 8th August 1865. There was discussion around the first show, which was to be held in yards, yet to be erected, in the centre of the Wagga Wagga racecourse. March 1866 was the suggested date for the same.

A date for the first show had been set by September 1865, this being the 21st November 1865. Construction of the yards for the show had not yet commenced.⁵

The First Show

The MPA’s first show was a small unostentatious one-day event held on a portion of the present racecourse, on November 21, 1865. The weather was described as ‘most unpropitious,’ but the event itself was said to be ‘a great success.’⁶

The sheep were exhibited in hurdles, and the few horses that were exhibited were running outside the enclosures, each under the charge of their respective grooms. The exhibition of sheep was particularly good. It was asserted by competent judges that a better selection, whether with regard to frame, fleece, or breeding could not have been brought together either in Sydney or Melbourne, and still less in any other breeding district in the colonies. Of rams no less than 750 were exhibited.⁷

A description of the show yards read as follows:

A roomy and most substantially built yard had been erected outside the posts on the opposite side of the Course to the winning post for the reception

¹ *Sydney Mail*, 5th November 1864, p. 3.

² Sherry Morris. *The Wagga Show* (unpublished article); *Yass Courier*, 3rd June 1865, p. 2, 14th June 1865, p. 2; *Tumut & Adelong Times*, 8th June 1865, p. 2.

³ *Maitland Mercury*, 15th July 1865, p. 5. (quoting *Wagga Wagga Express* [W.W.E]); *Tumut & Adelong Times*, 13th July 1865, p. 2.

⁴ *Yass Courier*, 26th July 1865, p. 2.

⁵ *Tumut & Adelong Times*, 25th September 1865, p. 3.

⁶ *Tumut & Adelong Times*, 30th November 1865, p. 2.

⁷ *Albury Banner*, 9th December 1865, p. 3.

of the horned stock. This yard was sub-divided into forty small pens, twenty being ranged down the two sides, and separated from each other by a broad open space down the centre.⁸

Early Shows

The exhibits at the first shows were mainly cattle, sheep and horses. Yards had been constructed (but no buildings). A temporary publican's booth was erected for the duration of the show.

In November 1866 (2nd show), there were eighty entries – 11 thoroughbred horses, 4 draught horses, 21 cattle, 24 sheep, 20 miscellaneous – fat cattle, fat sheep, four hacks, 1 pair of buggy horses and one single harness horse.⁹

<p>MURRUMBIDGEE PASTORAL ASSOCIATION.</p>	
<p>I. The Second Show will take place at Wagga Wagga on the 20th November, 1866.</p> <p>II. The name, residence, and district of the Exhibitor, the breed of the animal he intends to exhibit, the pedigree of the stock, so far as known, and of sheep the time of shearing must be given in to the secretary, with entry, one day previous to the show, or he will not be allowed to compete. If any doubts arise as to the correctness of the declaration of any exhibitor, such exhibitor shall not be entitled to any prize which may be awarded to him or her until the Committee shall have satisfactory proof that the declaration is correct; and any member having made a false declaration shall be subject to all or any of the following penalties:—Forfeiture of prizes, non-permission to exhibit again, and expulsion from the Association.</p> <p>III. That all stock exhibited shall bona fide be the property of the exhibitor or his principal.</p> <p>IV. A ticket or order shall be delivered by the Secretary, or on before the day of Show, to the person in charge of each lot for its being received into the show yard, and no stock whatever can be allowed to enter without such order.</p> <p>V. No competitor will be allowed to exhibit more than one lot in each class, but it shall not be competent to enter a lot in one class, and afterwards to withdraw it for competition in another class, unless by direction of the Committee.</p>	<p>VI. The competing stock will be classed and distinguished by tickets or numbers, to be affixed to each lot immediately after they are placed in the show-yard.</p> <p>VII. The Committee will appoint skilful persons as Judges, who, in forming their opinion, will particularly attend to the instructions to be delivered for their guidance.</p> <p>VIII. No change can under any circumstances be made in the General Regulations of the Association for Pastoral Meetings, and General Shows of Live Stock, so far as competitors are interested, unless regularly submitted and approved at a Meeting of the Committee, and duly intimated to competitors.</p> <p>IX. No member can exhibit stock unless his Subscription be paid up for the current year.</p> <p>X. Should the Secretary for the time being intend to exhibit Stock, he shall be required to forward to the Chairman of Committee a scaled description of the same, naming the class or classes in which he intends to exhibit them, at least twenty-one days previous to the show, which is not to be opened until the day of show.</p> <p>XI. The Committee shall nominate on the Show-day two of their number (non competitors) to accompany the Judges, to prevent interference during the examination of the Stock.</p> <p>XII. All persons intending to exhibit Extra Stock, must intimate to the Secretary, and describe the Stock before six o'clock p.m., the day previous to the Show.</p> <p>XIII. Stock which cannot be shown any competing class may be exhibited as extra stock.</p> <p>XIV. Any animal eligible to be shown for a Class Premium cannot be shown as extra Stock.</p>

Above: Rules for the 2nd MPA show at Wagga Wagga.¹⁰

The Sydney press was less than flattering in their appraisal of the event, declaring:

On Tuesday last the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association held its second meeting. The favourable season which we have of late enjoyed induced the

⁸ *Albury Banner*, 9th December 1865, p. 3.

⁹ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 11th July 1914, p. 6.

¹⁰ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 17th November 1866, p. 1. (Supplement).

hope that the Exhibition of this year would be in every respect superior to that of 1865, and prove worthy of this rich and flourishing district; in some respects it has answered these expectations, but in others I regret to say it has failed. Of late years the attention of graziers has been specially devoted to sheep, and in this very important material of our prosperity the Murrumbidgee ought to show something possessing real excellence. The number of sheep that were brought to the show pens was not equal to that displayed last year, the quality certainly in no respect superior. Mr. Macansh's fine Leicester rams (actually Merino rams)¹¹, Mr Windeyer's very superior hoggets, and Mr. Hammond's fat wethers, have really almost exhausted the list. Some imported Lincoln rams, crossed with the Leicester, did not seem to gain much favour. These belong to the same long-woolled class and were shown by Mr Rawdon F. Greene. No prize was awarded to them, nor did the owner effect a sale, which he was anxious to do. We are sorry that the riches of the district were not more largely developed. The rams shown by Mr. Macansh displayed all the care in breeding for which that gentleman has been justly famous, but he was himself disheartened, and the public were disappointed that he had nothing to compete with. The horse stock was not first-class. For draught horses, Mr Devlin was the favourite, Mr Healy's *Young England* also received a prize, Mr. Waller's *Lion* bore the palm as the best thoroughbred stallion. In cattle, the stock was good. A very fine bull of Mr. Waller's gained three prizes as did Mr Davidson's favourite bull, *Highlander*. The best short horn cow was claimed by Mr. Elliott. Nor must we forget to mention the cattle shown by Mr Leitch, some of which took prizes, and all deserved very honourable mention. The weather was all that could be desired, and a large company was gathered together. If justice compels us to complain, we do so with the idea of stimulating our squatting friends to exert themselves more earnestly on future occasions. If the Murrumbidgee is to have a Pastoral Association let it be worthy of the five districts it professes to represent.¹²

The reviews were much more favourable in November 1867, with the local press proclaiming:

From almost every point of view the show was a great and decided success and has been incomparably superior to either of the exhibitions of previous years. In every class the number of exhibits has shewn a most encouraging increase, and in some classes of short-horn cattle and merino sheep, the increase has amounted to four and five fold. The show of blood stock was extremely good, and in the class for thoroughbred stallions there were nine competitors.¹³

¹¹ Macansh was a breeder of Merino sheep, not Leicester. A report in the *Illustrated Sydney News*, from December 1866, records Macansh as winning prizes for his Merino sheep. A later edition of the *Wagga Wagga Express* shows that he also sold Merino rams at that time. See *Illustrated Sydney News*, 15th December 1866, p. 6 and *Wagga Wagga Express*, 3rd November 1866, p. 3 for more information.

¹² *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27th November 1866, p. 3.

¹³ *Sydney Mail*, 30th November 1867, p. 11. (Quoting the WWE).

MURRUMBRIDGE PASTORAL ASSOCIATION.

LIST of PRIZES to be given by the "MURRUM-BIDGE PASTORAL ASSOCIATION," at its second exhibition, to be held in Wagga Wagga, on the 20th day of November, 1866.

Patron:

William Macleay, Esq., M.P.

President:

W. O. Windayer, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Presidents:

T. W. Hammond, Esq., J.P. | John Leitch, Esq., J.P.

Hon. Secretary:

G. A. Elliot.

Treasurer:

W. A. Cottey, Esq.

Committees:

J. S. Lavender, Esq., J.P.	J. Rand, Esq.
John Holloway, Esq., J.P.	E. Ashcroft, Esq.
J. H. Wallis, Esq., J.P.	A. W. Rasch, Esq.
H. Baylis, Esq., P.M.	Adam McNeill, Esq.
A. Davidson, Esq.	Rawdon F. Green, Esq.
R. B. Wilkinson, Esq.	John Smith, jun., Esq.
W. N. Waller, Esq., J.P.	John Donnelly, Esq.
A. A. Devlin, Esq.	William Sinclair, Esq.
H. M. Paul, Esq.	William Rand, Esq.
J. Cox, Esq.	R. J. Higgins, Esq.

DRAGHT HORSES.

For the best Draught Entire Horse, above three years of age. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5.

For the best Draught Mare, above three years of age. First prize, silver cup, value £5; second prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Colonial-bred Draught Entire Horse, above three years of age. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5.

For the best Colonial-bred Draught Entire Horse, under three and over one year of age. First prize, silver cup, value £5; second prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Colonial-bred Draught Mare, under three years and over one year of age. First prize, silver cup, value £5; second prize, Hon. Certificate.

THOROUGHBRED HORSES.

For the best thoroughbred Blood Stallion. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Colonial-bred Blood Stallion, above three years of age. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Colonial-bred Blood Stallion, under three years and over one year of age. First prize, silver cup, value £6; second prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Thorough-bred Mare. First prize, silver cup, value, £8; second prize, Hon. Certificate.

CATTLE.—SHORT-HORN.

For the best Short-horn Bull. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5.

For the best Colonial-bred Bull, above two years old. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5.

For the best Yearling Bull. First prize, silver cup, value £5; second prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Short-horn Cow, above three years old. First prize, silver cup, value £8; second prize, £4.

For the best Short-horn Heifer, from two years to three years old. First prize, silver cup, value £5; second prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Short-horn Heifer, from one year to two years old. First prize, silver cup, value £4; second prize, Hon. Certificate.

CATTLE.—HEREFORD.

For the best Hereford Bull, over three years old. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Hereford Bull, under three years old. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Hereford Cow, over three years old. First prize, silver cup, value £6; second prize, £3.

For the best Hereford Cow, under three years old. First prize, silver cup, value £6; second prize, £3.

SHEEP.—MERINO.

For the three best Colonial-bred Merino Rams, of any age. First prize, silver cup, value £15; second prize, £10; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the three best Colonial-bred Two-tooth Merino Rams. First prize, silver cup, value £15; second prize, £10; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the three best Colonial-bred Merino Ewes, of any age. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the three best Colonial-bred Two-tooth Merino Ewes. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Imported Merino Ram, of any age. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize £5; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Imported Merino Ewe of any age. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

SHEEP.—LONG-WOOLLED.

For the three best Long-woolled Rams—Leicester, Cotswold, or Lincoln. First prize, silver cup, value £10; second prize, £5; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the three best Long-Woolled Ewes—Leicester, Cotswold, or Lincoln. First prize, silver cup, value £5; second prize, £2 10s; third prize, Hon. Certificate.

For the best Bull in the yard. Prize, silver cup, value £10.

For the best Merino Ram in the yard. Prize, silver cup, value £20.

For the best Merino Ewe in the yard. Prize, silver cup, value £10.

EXTRA STOCK.

For the best pen of Five Wethers, showing most symmetry, fat, and weight. Prize, £2 10s.

For the best pair of Oxen, showing most symmetry, fat, and weight. Prize, £5.

For the best pair of Cows, showing most symmetry, fat, and weight. Prize, £5.

For the best Cow in Milk. Prize, £3.

For the best Buck. Prize, £3.

For the best Light Harness Horse. Prize, £3.

For the best pair Light Harness Horses. Prize, £3.

For the best pair of Draught Horses. Prize, £3.

Qualification fee for each class for exhibitors—non-subscribers, resident in the district—£2 2s; non-residents, £1 ls.

Any further information required may be had on application to the Hon. Secretary.

Left & Above: An advertisement for the 2nd MPA Show at Wagga Wagga in November 1866. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6th November 1866, p. 1.)

First Committee

The first committee of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association included most of the district's prominent pastoralists and a few important townsmen. The first President was thirty-two-year-old Walter Orton Windeyer of 'Wantabadgery', a member of a well-known legal family which had its main pastoral interests on the Lower Hunter River.

John Leitch, born in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, had formerly been the manager of 'Berry Jerry' station but by 1865 had bought out the owners, Messrs Osborne, and was the sole owner of the property.

Thomas Wardle Hammond, the thirty-nine-year-old native-born son of a clergyman, had formerly been a law clerk but, by 1865, was the influential squatter at 'Wyoming' station at Junee.

John Cox and John Donnelly were both well-known Irish Catholics. John Cox, aged 45, the stepson of Joseph Cox of Livingstone Gully, had purchased 'Pullitop' from John Gordon with John Keane and partnered with his two brothers-in-law, Charles Crisp and John King, in buying the 'Mangoplah' run. Fifty-two-year-old John Donnelly had acquired 'Borambola' from John Gordon in 1865; then bought 'Cunningdroo' and 'Gumly Gumly' from John Peter.

Staunch Presbyterian and Scotsman, Alexander Davidson, had settled at 'Bullenbong' in the early 1840s while Edward Ashcroft had acquired the 'Tootool' run at The Rock from the Irvine brothers the year the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association had formed.

Englishmen, James Smith Lavender and Robert Bliss Wilkinson (later his brother-in-law) had immigrated to Victoria during the gold rushes in 1852 and invested in pastoral properties including the 'Marrah' and 'Temora' stations in the Riverina in 1863. Later Lavender and Wilkinson had a stock and station agency in Wagga.

The other pastoralists included Henry Moncreiff, Paul of 'Pomingalarna', Englishman William Rand of 'Oura' station, William Sinclair, the pastoral tenant at 'Eunonyhareenyha' and 'Cowabee', and the native-born Mathew Henry Devlin of 'Ganmain'.

Other members of the Committee were townsmen who had pastoral interests. Robert John Higgins, aged 35, had bred cattle at 'Eulonga' station on the Lachlan River about thirty-two kilometres below Booligal, before moving to Wagga and purchasing the Australia Hotel from P.J. McAlister.

George Forsyth, a native of South Shields, Durham, England, had managed a pastoral run in the Lower Murrumbidgee Pastoral district for John Tooth before becoming a storekeeper, firstly at Tarcutta, and then at Wagga from the early 1850s. His store was viewed as a general supply depot of pastoralists and other settlers in the south-western district living within 160 kilometres from the banks of the Murrumbidgee. He had been the postmaster from 1858 and a stock and station agent. He also held pastoral property with his brother-in-law, John Gordon.

Henry Baylis, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and educated at King's School in Parramatta, had engaged in pastoral pursuits with his father at 'Capertee' in the Mudgee district before he joined public service in 1852. He had been appointed Wagga's first Police Magistrate on January 1, 1858.

William Alfred Cottee, born in Essex, had been the Manager of the AJS Bank in Wagga since 1861.

The remaining members of the committee were William Chapman, a farmer at Tarcutta from the early 1860s, A.W. Rasch and J.H. Wallis.

Other prominent members in the 1870s included C.D. Bardwell of Oberne, T.H. Mate of Tarcutta, Robert McEntyre of Glenfield, G.P. Wilson of Big Springs, Frederick Chisholm of Bull's Run and Sam Hawkins, the proprietor of the *Wagga Wagga Express* newspaper.

In the first thirty-five years, the Association had just four presidents — W. O. Windeyer (1865-1868), John Leitch (1869-1872, 1876-77, 1881-82); Thomas Mate (1873-74, 1883) and Thomas W. Hammond (1875, 1879-80, 1884-1899).

Henry Baylis acted as Secretary, briefly, until G.A. Elliot was appointed permanent Secretary - sometime prior to September 1865.¹⁴ Elliot remained in office until 1874. His salary in 1870 was £20 per annum.

Tompson

On May 20, 1874, F.A. Tompson was appointed the Secretary of the Association. He proved very efficient and extremely hard-working, and the organisation of the Association improved dramatically. Although Hawkins objected to Tompson 'cutting and drying the order of business' (by arranging everything and then calling on the Committee to adopt what he had done), the remainder of the Committee passed the motion 'that the form of business paper as produced by the Secretary, be adhered to in future'.¹⁵



Before long F.A. Tompson had succeeded in placing the Association upon a most successful footing. In recognition of the value of his services, at the Annual General Meeting on April 5 1875, he was voted £15 in addition to his salary as a bonus.

Left: Frederick Anslow Tompson. Image courtesy of the Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society.

A.G. Jones became the first Life Member after he donated £50 and said he would contribute a subscription of like amount each year while the present Secretary or one as energetic and successful was in office.¹⁶

¹⁴ *Tumut & Adelong Times*, 25th September 1865, p. 3.

¹⁵ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 15th August 1874, p. 2.

¹⁶ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 29th May 1875, p. 2; *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 8th September 1875, p. 2.

Conflict

Not all the prizes awarded were popular decisions. The Committee often had to hear appeals.

After the 1872 Show, Mat Devlin complained that Henry Baylis, an enthusiast in shorthorn cattle, had prejudiced the judges against his bull, *Robin Hood*, which the judges had not considered when awarding the prize for the Best Bull over three years.

More seriously, Devlin complained that Baylis in October 1873 had on the night prior to the show had a motion passed that in effect disqualified his cows from Sections 6 and 7, Class C, after all entries had been accepted. At the time of entry, the condition was merely that the cow should be in calf or have a calf at foot whereas the motion passed at the meeting the night before the show said that cows which were not springing should not be judged, thereby disqualifying Devlin's entry. Instead, Baylis' animals won the prizes.

A Special Meeting of the Association was held to consider Baylis' action on the night prior to the show and it was decided that the resolution was illegal. Subsequently, the Committee resolved: 'That the meeting being of the opinion that the instruction to the judges under which M H Devlin's Landscape was disqualified on Sections 6 and 7 of class C was illegal and having evidence that had it not been for that instruction the Judges would have awarded the prize to that cow and the cow having dropped a calf on 17 March, it is resolved that an extra prize in each of those sections be awarded to Mr Devlin.'¹⁷



However, Devlin was not appeased. It was not prizes he had wanted but justice! Nevertheless, Baylis never relinquished his prizes.

Details of the Special Meeting appeared in the *Wagga Wagga Express* much to the chagrin of Baylis who thereafter did all he could to exclude the press from Committee meetings.¹⁸ He maintained that 'the presence of the press was objectionable and prejudicial to the interests of a private association.'

Left: Henry Baylis. Image courtesy of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society.

The move was naturally opposed by Sam Hawkins, the proprietor of the *Express*, who continued to report on the Committee's

¹⁷ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 9th May 1874, p. 2.

¹⁸ In August 1874, Baylis successfully moved that a motion passed at the previous meeting permitting the press to attend meetings, not be included in the minutes for said meeting. *Wagga Wagga Express*, 15th August 1874, p. 2.

discussions to his newspaper. At the instigation of Baylis, Hawkins was censured by the Committee and asked not to abuse his position as a member of the Committee.¹⁹

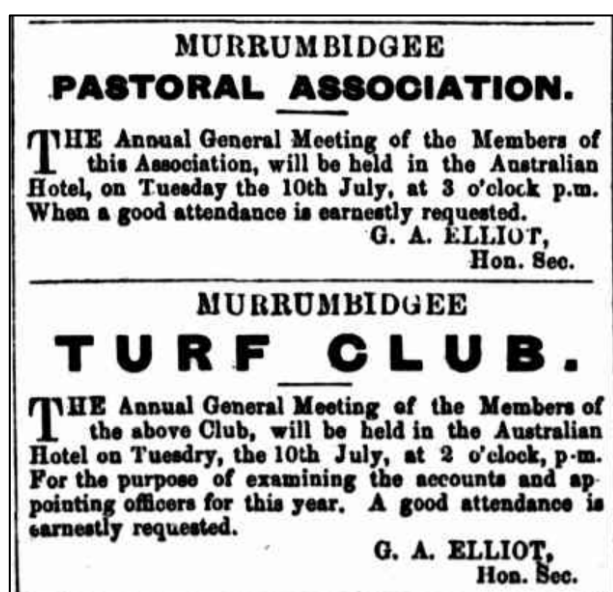
No doubt in retaliation, Hawkins reported on Baylis' behaviour at a Pastoral Dinner in unflattering terms. Apparently, Hawkins and the editor of the *Wagga Wagga Advertiser* had both taken offense at Baylis' reference to members of the press as 'broken down swells, reduced by drunkenness and want of energy and industry to gain their living on the press and were to be bought body and soul for a glass of grog'.²⁰

According to the report, Baylis 'was puffing himself out like a pouter-pigeon', boasting that he had become a successful cattle exhibitor in spite of the smallness of his herd; and without investing great sums of money in high pedigree cattle, he had beaten and taken prizes off those who had done so. Another guest at the dinner had then taken him down just a peg or two by remarking that any success he could lay claim to as a breeder had been the result of the kindness of his friends 'who had given him free use of every good bull imported into the district'.

The report concluded by regretting that Baylis 'cannot mend his manners by the same simple process whereby he improves the breeding of his calves – by taking advantage of the superior stock of his friends!'

Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association – Relationships

The MPA held their first AGM on the 10th July 1866, at 3pm. The Murrumbidgee Turf Club (MTC) held their AGM at the same venue, on the same day, at 2pm.²¹ There appears to have been some commonality between the two groups.



Left: Notices placed by George Elliott in June 1866.²²

A separate body, the Wagga Wagga Agricultural & Horticultural Association, was formed by the early 1870's and held their first show in 1871.²³

In 1884, the MPA considered whether to merge with the Wagga Wagga Agricultural & Horticultural Association.

¹⁹ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 5th September 1874, p. 2.

²⁰ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 16th September 1876, p. 3.

²¹ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 30th June 1866, p. 3.

²² *Wagga Wagga Express*, 30th June 1866, p. 3.

²³ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 11th September 1872, p. 2.

The MPA resolved not to merge, quoting financial disparities between the two entities as the major stumbling block. The MPA, instead, resolved to change their name to the Murrumbidgee

Pastoral & Agricultural Association (MPAA).²⁴

Left: The 19th annual show was advertised under the new name.²⁵

[5770] **Department of Public Works,**
 Railway Branch,
 Sydney, 3rd September, 1884.

MURRUMBIDGEE PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION'S
SHOW, AT WAGGA WAGGA, ON THE 9TH AND 10TH
SEPTEMBER, 1884.

EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued at Sydney and all
Stations on the Southern and South-western Lines to Wagga
Wagga, commencing with the Mail Trains leaving Sydney,
Albury, and Hay, on Saturday, 6th September, and terminating
by Trains arriving at Wagga Wagga on Wednesday morning,
10th September, available for return till 13th September.

CHAS. A. GOODCHAP,
 Commissioner for Railways.

²⁴ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 15th March 1884, p. 3.

²⁵ *NSW Government Gazette*, 1884, p. 6025.

New site – Travers Street

The 11th show in September 1875 took place on the racecourse site for the last time.

The wants of the visitors in the matter of drink and food were carefully attended to by Messrs. Bowen and M'Alister, who had a booth on the ground, as well as a refreshment tent. There were also two fruit and bun stalls, as well as a plentiful supply of coffee, these being vended by Messrs. Bailey and Marks. As a matter of course the under and over gents were to be seen plying their trade busily, and reaping, doubtless, a good profit therefrom. To the credit of the police, it may be said that the most perfect order was maintained, there being none of the drunken rows to be usually seen on show grounds.²⁶

The first show on the new site, near the bridge, was held in 'exceedingly fine weather,' on the 13th September 1876. The MPA had not had sufficient time to erect the new yards, and these were now planned for the following year.²⁷

There was a large attendance from all parts of the country chiefly because of the zeal of F.A. Thompson in communicating with the Railway Department and, after much urging, obtaining excursion tickets from all stations on New South Wales lines to Wagga.

According to the local newspapers, there were no cases of drunkenness; and the grounds were kept clear of 'thimble riggers and card sharpers.' An itinerant chorister as he termed himself paraded the grounds singing songs while a preacher discoursed upon the wickedness of the whole proceedings.²⁸

The annual dinner at the Australian Hotel in the evening was attended by fifty gentlemen; and once again, the Secretary, F.A. Thompson, was praised for his great work.²⁹

A meeting of the MPA in April 1877, recorded that the association was in a strong financial position, sufficient for new yards and offices to be financed. There was a concern regarding the 'usage' category of land, which prevented the association from proceeding with the latter works. The old yards had been dismantled and the timber stored, ready for reuse.³⁰

Despite good intentions the new yards were not fully completed in time for the 1877 show, which was held on the 12th September 1877. A report noted:

The thirteenth annual exhibition in connection with the above association (MPA) took place at the society's new yards, Wagga Wagga, on the 12th instant. Since the previous year's show, the new yards have been in course of erection but owing to the delays which occurred in the granting of an alteration in the shape of the ground given by the Government, there was not sufficient time for their erection in the manner intended. The new yards

²⁶ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 11th September 1875, p. 2.

²⁷ *Australian Town & Country Journal*, 23rd September 1876, p. 14.

²⁸ Sherry Morris. *The Wagga Show* (unpublished article).

²⁹ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 16th September 1876, p. 3.

³⁰ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 7th April 1877, p. 2.

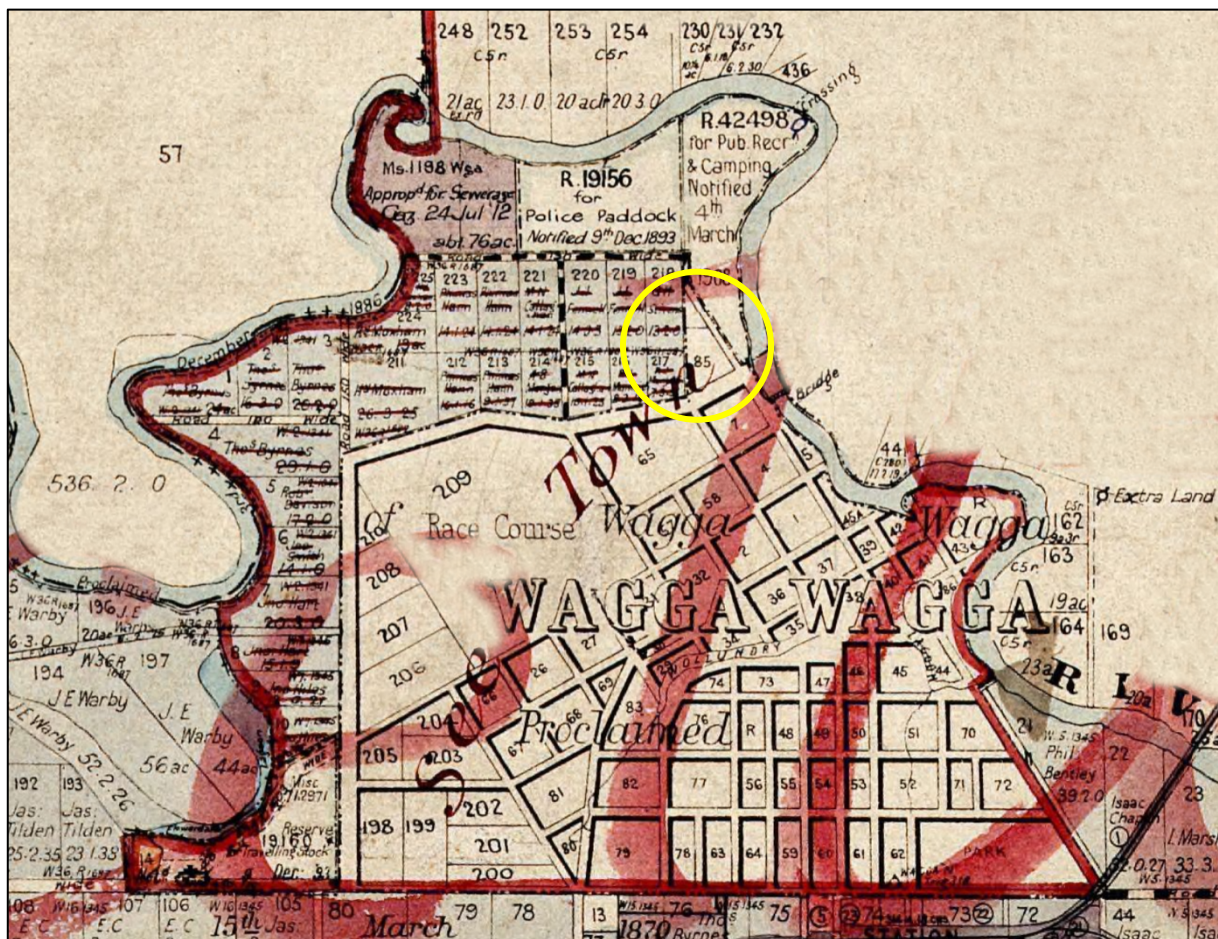
are in a much better position than the old ones, being much nearer to the town ship, thus lessening the distance for the townsfolk.³¹

The associations land in Travers Street was newly fenced, in time for the 1878 show.³²

The Wagga Show continued to grow in popularity in the following years. The acreage of the Showground proved insufficient, and a new site had to be found.

From as early as 1875, the Association had begun negotiations with the Lands Department for another site of ten acres (near the later site of the municipal yards). This area may have been considered temporary. It was subject to flooding and the only building erected was a caretaker's cottage. John Leitch and John Donnelly each donated £10 for the construction of yards.³³

In November 1879, the government officially gazetted a ten-acre lot, designated section 85, in the town and parish of South Wagga Wagga, to the purposes of the MPA.³⁴



³¹ *Australian Town & Country Journal*, 22nd September 1877, p. 15.

³² *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 14th September 1878, p. 2.

³³ Sherry Morris. *The Wagga Show* (unpublished article); *Sydney Mail*, 10th August 1910, p. 29.

³⁴ *NSW Government Gazette*, 1879, p. 5020. (see corr. 77-7396, and crown plan W.51-1345)

Above: Extract from a 1910 parish map showing the land granted to the PA in November 1879. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

A new sheep shed was erected in time for the 1879 show.³⁵ The contractor was Mr Gray.³⁶ A description of the building read as follows:

The total dimensions of the shed are 60ft. by 48ft., and consists of the main building, with two sides, or “lean-to’s”, the whole being constructed of sawn timber, with corrugated iron roof. The main building is 16ft. wide, each of the side additions being the same width. The height of the wall plate is 16ft, and at the ridge, 22ft. It contains twenty-five pens, each 6ft. by 4ft., constructed of sawn timber, the edges of which are planed down to prevent damage to fleeces. Each pen, in the main building, as well as in the sides, is furnished with a gate hung upon wrought strap hinges. Each of the sides contains 26 pens, making, with the centre, a total of 76, or accommodation for 152 sheep. A race 4ft. wide runs down the centre of the main building, and one also down each of the “lean-to’s” with a transverse race. The sides are boarded up a distance of 4ft., but in the event of its being desirable to close these with canvas during inclement weather, an ample supply of light is provided by six windows in the main building above the “lean-to’s”. The latter are 8ft. high on the outside, running up to 12ft. against the main building. The shed appears to be excellently contrived for the exhibition of sheep, and will, doubtless, be thoroughly appreciated by the owners of valuable animals, who hitherto have been compelled to exhibit under the disadvantage of open pens.³⁷

Expenditure in 1884, included the sum of some two hundred and thirty-two pounds for the construction of ‘cattle yards and oval.’.³⁸

It was usual for stock sales to be held in conjunction with the annual show, and such was the case in September 1884.³⁹

In November 1884, AT Bolton held the first stock sale at his new yards, in Travers Street, near the MPA show grounds.⁴⁰ In February 1885, new stock yards at the back of the Pastoral hotel were completed with Matthew Hollander being the contractor.⁴¹

It was in this same month, November 1884, that the MPA held a special meeting to discuss the possibility of choosing a new location for the show ground.⁴²

The meeting took place on the evening of the 27th, with Henry Baylis in the chair. Others in attendance were Messrs. J Gormly, S Hawkins, W Rand, H Davidson, A Smith, P Hann, CH Croaker, HB Fitzhardinge, J Ferguson, W Seeley, PJ McAlister, S Sullivan, and J Mackay.

³⁵ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 13th September 1879, p. 2.

³⁶ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 28th June 1879, p. 5.

³⁷ *Wagga Wagga Express*, 26th July 1879, p. 5.

³⁸ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 3rd April 1884, p. 2.

³⁹ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 30th August 1884, p. 3.

⁴⁰ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 4th November 1884, p. 2.

⁴¹ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 28th February 1885, p. 2.

⁴² *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 27th November 1884, p. 2.

A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs Bolton, Croaker and Davidson, had investigated the matter and their report was submitted to the special meeting. A primary criterion had been to secure land that was not subject to flooding. Mr Croaker acknowledged that 'the Association was liable to have all the improvements it may make on the present ground swept away at any time a flood occurs. It was, of course, advisable to have a change of site if for no other reason than this.'⁴³

<p align="center">Sales by Auction.</p> <p align="center">Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Show Sales.</p> <p align="center">THURSDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER.</p> <p align="center">WANGANELLA RAMS.</p> <p>BRAIM, TOMPSON, and DAVIDSON (in conjunction with PITT, SON, and BADGERY) have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. S. M. Swift to sell by auction, as above,</p> <p align="center">380 WANGANELLA BRED STUD RAMS.</p> <p>For the information of buyers, we may state that the late Messrs. S. M. Swift and A. and R. Amos purchased from Messrs. Austin and Millear, in 1882, for delivery in 1884, at the highest price ever paid for the number in Australia, the whole drop, after classing, of their Stud Ewes, the breeders' usual reservation being, in this instance, confined to the double studs only. Buyers will, therefore, have an opportunity of securing such a draft of rams as have never before been offered in this colony, and the attention of high-class breeders is directed to the sale.</p> <p>Comment on the Wanganella sheep is quite unnecessary. They have for many years carried off nearly all the awards at the Deniliquin Show, and two years back they won the Grand Champion Prize at Ballarat from all the most noted breeders in Victoria. At the last show, after beating all comers, Mr. Samuel M'Caughy, of Coonong, who has probably the largest number of stud ewes of any one owner in Australia, paid the unprecedented price of 4000 guineas for 10 of the reserved rams of the same dropping as these now offered.</p> <p>Further particulars on application to</p> <p align="center">BRAIM, TOMPSON, and DAVIDSON, Wagga Wagga. PITT, SON, and BADGERY, Sydney.</p>	<p align="center">Sales by Auction.</p> <p align="center">Stud Rams, Stud Ewes, Stud Bulls, Stud Horses.</p> <p align="center">Murrumbidgee Pastoral Show Annual Sales.</p> <p align="center">THURSDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 1884.</p> <p>WILKINSON, GRAVES, and LAVENDER will hold their Annual Sales in connection with the Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Association's Show, on Thursday, 11th September, 1884, when they will offer</p> <p align="center">STUD RAMS, STUD EWES. STUD BULLS, STUD HORSES.</p> <p>Having secured the well-known Race-course Paddocks, on which is abundance of grass and water, owners can rely that their stock will receive every attention; besides which, from the advantage of its proximity to the Show Ground, stock can be seen in a few minutes, also for several days prior to Show.</p> <p>Owners intending to favour us with stock for sale, will please send particulars as early as possible, so that they may be included in the catalogue.</p> <p>Our Mr. WARDEN HARRY GRAVES will personally attend the Sales and act as Auctioneer.</p>	<p align="center">MURRUMBIDGEE PASTORAL SHOW SALES.</p> <p align="center">Widgiewa Rams.</p> <p align="center">Widgiewa Rams.</p> <p align="center">THURSDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 1884.</p> <p>WILKINSON, GRAVES, and LAVENDER have received instructions from J. Cochran, Esq., of Widgiewa, to sell by public auction, on the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Show Grounds, on Thursday, 11th September, 1884,</p> <p align="center">200 PURE MERINO RAMS, 2-tooth.</p> <p>These Rams are from the Widgiewa Stud Flock, which was founded many years ago with selections of the best Mudgee and Tasmanian sheep procurable, the owner sparing no expense, having been determined that none but really good stock would be taken. The Widgiewa Sheep, wherever exhibited, have been prize-takers. The present lot will be found fully equal to those sold in previous years, are exceptionally well grown, carrying immense fleeces of good paying wool. Any comment from the auctioneers is deemed needless. They will be offered in lots to suit all classes of purchasers.</p>
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Three of multiple advertisements for stock sales in conjunction with the annual show. In September 1884 (*Wagga Wagga Advertiser*; 11th September 1884, p. 3).

The sub-committee's report included the following paragraph:

Your subcommittee has inspected various sites in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Wagga Wagga, and, after consideration, recommends (in the event of a change of site of Show Ground being determined on at the special general meeting of members) the land on the south side of the railway, forming part of portions 82 and 83, parish of Wagga Wagga, as most suitable for a Show Ground. The land in question includes about 40 acres, and, with a very small part of portion 81, same

⁴³ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*; 29th November 1884, p. 2.

parish, forms a triangular piece of ground, bounded by the Albury-road, the Urana-road, and the railway. It is high above flood level, not too far distant from the centre of the town, near the railway station, and contiguous to the trucking yards. When cleared of timber, there will be a pleasant look-out from all parts of the ground over the surrounding country. The land is under offer to the Association for £15 per acre, terms as arranged. The title is perfect.⁴⁴

There was a consensus that the price per acre was on the high side, and several members expressed a view that alternative sites should be considered. The meeting resolved, firstly, to secure an alternative site for the show ground, and then, after further discussion, resolved to adopt the report of the subcommittee (six votes to four in favour).⁴⁵

A further meeting took place on the 2nd February 1885, at which a resolution to purchase the land recommended by the subcommittee was approved, with Messrs A Davidson, TW Hammond, and H Baylis confirmed as trustees.⁴⁶

Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Association, Wagga Wagga.

— — —

TO CONTRACTORS.

— — —

SEPARATE TENDERS are invited for the following Works, upon the New Show Ground of the Association :—

1. For GRUBBING and CLEARING TREES and STUMPS, not specially marked to remain, including filling up holes.
2. For the ERECTION of PALING FENCE.
3. For REMOVAL and RE-ERECTION of SHEEP SHED.
4. For REMOVAL and RE-ERECTION of AGRICULTURAL SHED.
5. For REMOVAL and RE-ERECTION of CATTLE YARDS.

— — —

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

All necessary particulars may be obtained from Mr. George Sheppard, Architect, Town Hall.

Endorsed Tenders will be received until 28th MARCH, 1885, by

R. B. WOOD,
Sec. M.P. and A.A.

Some idea of the infrastructure on the old Travers Street site can be gauged from an advertisement that appeared in March 1885. This notice listed three items to be removed from the old site to the new site.⁴⁷

Left: Notice to contractors in March 1885.

Improvements continued throughout 1885, with tenders sought for the construction of a 'refreshment pavilion' in May of that year.⁴⁸

TO BUILDERS.

— — —

TENDERS are invited for the erection of **REFRESHMENT PAVILION** for the Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Association, Wagga Wagga.

Plans, &c., may be seen at the office of the undersigned, to whom Tenders are to be sent not later than **THURSDAY, 4th June.**

GEO. SHEPPARD,
Architect.

Above: Tenders sought in May 1885.

⁴⁴ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 29th November 1884, p. 2.

⁴⁵ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 29th November 1884, p. 2.

⁴⁶ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 3rd February 1885, p. 2.

⁴⁷ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 19th March 1885, p. 3.

⁴⁸ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 28th May 1885, p. 3.

TO CARPENTERS, &c.

TENDERS are invited until **WEDNESDAY, July 15th**, for **Sundry WORKS** in connection with the **SHOW GROUND, Wagga Wagga**, including **Jumps, Fencing, Draining, &c.**, for **Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Association, Wagga Wagga.**

GEO. SHEPPARD,
Architect,
Wagga Wagga.

TO BUILDERS.

TENDERS are invited, until **JULY 17th, 1885**, for the **ERECTION of GRAND STAND** upon **Grounds of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Association.**

GEO. SHEPPARD,
Architect,
Wagga Wagga.

At the AGM on the 1st April 1885, the members were advised that the contract for the purchase of the new site had been concluded within the past week, at a cost of six hundred and twenty four pounds, for the land, which had an area of some 42 acres. Mr Bolton advised that tenders for the relocation of the buildings from the old site had been approved and that these projects were underway. There were no impediments to the next show being held on the new site.⁴⁹

The improvements continued in July 1885, with notice of more enhancements to the new site – in the form of a grandstand and other works.

Left: Tenders sought for grandstand, and other works, in July 1885.⁵⁰



Above: New buildings on the Albury Road site. From right to left: the pavilion, the agricultural shed, the grandstand. Photo courtesy of the Museum of the Riverina, (BGS.1966_10c).

⁴⁹ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 2nd April 1885, p. 2.

⁵⁰ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 7th July 1885, p. 3.

The Third and Final Site – Albury Road (Bourke Street)

Extensive works had been carried out by August 1885 in preparation for the show, which was to be held on the 8th and 9th of September. The local newspaper provided the following report on the venue:

The whole of the old sheds have been most carefully taken down and removed from the former grounds, and as re-erected now it would be difficult to say whether they were not new buildings. But a better idea may be formed of the appearance the ground will present at the next show time, when we say that the sheep-sheds, consisting of 164 pens, represent £1200; the cattle yards, with 40 stalls, £250; the grandstand (to accommodate about 400 people, with two flights of broad stairs leading to it), with ladies retiring rooms below, £900; an elegant refreshment pavilion, with a three-sided bar outside, and caterer's kitchen and store-room attached, £360; and the agricultural shed for the exhibition of produce, £200; while the fencing, gates, and jumps cost £130. Thus, it will be seen that apart from the cost of the land (£600), which would bring double the amount if bare to-morrow, the Association has over £3000 of valuable assets built, or in course of erection.

The whole of the ground has been judiciously cleared, some of the best shade trees having been properly left undisturbed; and when in a very few years the intended lawn has been made, and some more shade trees which are to be planted have arrived at maturity, the place ought to be one of the most pleasant resorts within a radius of fifty miles. The parade ring, which contains two inner rings, is half a mile in circumference, and a splendid view of it will be obtained from the Grandstand. We had almost omitted to mention that there will be a platform for the shearing of merino sheep.⁵¹

The reporter was also impressed with the site itself, making the following comments:

The first thing that will strike the visitor, a stranger to the spot, is the beautiful panoramic view which is obtained from any portion of the property. Looking north there is a good view of the railway line and Foxborough Hall, the residence of the mayor (Mr. J. Gormly); on the north-east of the town is nestled among the surrounding rises, and the eastern aspect presents a view of the residence of Mr. H. B. Fitzhardinge, and in the foreground below, strikingly beautiful, the only bit of natural forest land near Wagga yet protected from ruthless axes. Turning to the south-east Willans' Hill and the skirts of the Recreation Ground are visible, and this view is probably one of the prettiest of the whole surrounding ones. On the south there is the Albury Road, and the residence of Mr. L Gormly. Turning to the south-west, although more distant, the ranges at the head of Emu Flat agreeably rise before the view, followed on the west by the Moorong Hills,

⁵¹ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 15th August 1885, p. 2.

with the Malebo Range on the north-west, with the bright green river flats between them and the spectator.

George Sheppard was the associations architect of choice, and under his supervision a fence was being constructed on the new site. This consisted of two rails with five-foot palings. Some three hundred deciduous trees were planted inside the boundaries of the new fence, and inwards of that, the fence from the old site was erected, in order to protect the newly planted trees.⁵²

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

SALE OF STUD SHEEP.

AT
MURRUMBIDGEE

Pastoral & Agricultural Association's Show Grounds,
WAGGA WAGGA.

THURSDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1885.

BRAIM, TOMPSON, and DAVIDSON
will offer for public competition, at the
abovenamed place and date,
Selections of
PURE MERINOS.

The following well-known breeders have
already signified their intention of sending
drafts :—

F. L. PARKER, Quiamong.
AUSTIN and MILLEAR, Wanganella
CHAS. AYBEY, Warranooke
JOSEPH MACK, Berry Bank

Particulars are requested of any other lots
intended for this sale at as early a date as
possible, so that accommodation may be
secured and catalogues prepared.

BRAIM, TOMPSON, & DAVIDSON,
Deniliquin, Wagga Wagga, and Hay.

The tradition of holding stock sales in conjunction with the show continued at the new venue.⁵³

Left: Notice of stock sale in conjunction with the 1885 show.⁵⁴



Right: Peter James McAlister (publican, businessman, and enthusiastic supporter of horse racing.)
Courtesy of Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society.

⁵² *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 18th August 1885, p. 2.

⁵³ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 29th August 1885, p. 4.

⁵⁴ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 29th August 1885, p. 4.

MURRUMBIDGEE PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

SCHEDULE OF PRIZES

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION, 1885.

**To be held on the Association's New Grounds, Wagga Wagga,
ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1885.**

Class A—Thoroughbred Horses.
 Sec. 1—Stallion, 4 yrs. or over. Champion Prize, £5; second, £3; third, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Colt, 3 yrs. First, £3; second, H.C.
 Sec. 3—Colt, 2 yrs. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 4—Brood Mare, 4 yrs. or over, in foal or with foal at foot. First, £3; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 5—Filly, 3 yrs. First, £3; second, H.C.
 Sec. 6—Filly, 2 yrs. First, £2; second, H.C.

Class B—Draught Horses.
 Sec. 1—Stallion, 4 yrs. or over. Champion Prize, £5; second, £3; third, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Colt, 3 yrs. First, £3; second, £1 10s.; third, H.C.
 Sec. 3—Colt, 2 yrs. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 4—Mare, 4 yrs. or over, in foal or with foal at foot. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 5—Filly, 3 yrs. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 6—Filly, 2 yrs. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.

Class C—Shorthorn Cattle.
 Sec. 1—Bull over 3 yrs. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Bull 2 to 3 yrs. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 3—Bull 1 to 2 yrs. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 4—Bull under 12 months. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 5—Cow over 3 yrs., calf at foot. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 6—Cow over 3 yrs. (to calve within 245 days of show). First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 7—Heifer 2 to 3 yrs. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 8—Heifer 1 to 2 yrs. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 9—Heifer under 12 months. First, £2; second, H.C.

Class D—Herefords.
 Sec. 1—Bull over 3 yrs. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Bull under 3 yrs. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 3—Cow over 3 yrs. (to calf or calf at foot). First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 4—Heifer under 3 yrs. First, £2; second, H.C.
 (Prizes in Section D of Class C, and Section 1 of Class D, not payable until certificate lodged and proof tendered that the cow has calved.)

Class DD—Alderneys.
 Sec. 1—Bull over 3 yrs. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Bull under 3 yrs. First, £1; second, H.C.
 Sec. 3—Cow over 3 yrs. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 4—Heifer under 3 yrs. First, £1; second, H.C.

Class E—Merino Sheep—"Strong Combing."
 Sec. 1—Ram, 2 yrs. or over. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Ram, 1 yr., has been shorn. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 3—Ewe, 1 yr., never shorn. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 4—Ewe, 2 yrs. or over. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 5—Ewe, 1 yr., has been shorn. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 6—Ewe, 1 yr., never shorn. First, £2; second, H.C.

Class EE—"Fine Combing."
 Sec. 1—Ram, 2 yrs. or over. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Ram, 1 yr., has been shorn. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 3—Ewe, 1 yr., never shorn. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 4—Ewe, 2 yrs. or over. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 5—Ewe, 1 yr., has been shorn. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 6—Ewe, 1 yr., never shorn. First, £2; second, H.C.
 (Each Exhibitor to state, and statement of date of shearing must accompany entry.)

Class F—Long Wool Sheep.
 Sec. 1—Ram. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Ewe. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.

Class G—Fat Stock.
 Sec. 1—Two Oxen, most symmetry, fat, and weight. First, £3; second, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Two Cows, most symmetry, fat, and weight. First, £3; second, H.C.
 Sec. 3—Five Merino Wethers, most symmetry, fat, and weight. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 4—Five Wethers, other than Merino, most symmetry, fat, and weight. First, £2; second, H.C.

Class H—Extra Stock.
 Sec. 1—Hack. First, £20; second, £3; third, H.C.
 Sec. 2—Light Horse, in harness. First, £10; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 3—Pair in harness. First, £2; second, £1; third, H.C.
 Sec. 4—Pair Buggy Horses, 14 hands or under, in harness. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 5—Pony Hack, 14 hands or under. First, £2; second, £1.
 Sec. 6—Heavy Draught Gelding or Mare. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 7—Pair of Farm Horses, Mares or Geldings. First, £2; second, H.C.
 Sec. 8—Weight-carrying Hunter, to carry not less than 11st.; trial leaps, 40s. Hides to be approved by the Committee, and to ride in Sheepskins or Hunting Outfits. First, £25, and a Trophy of the value of £15, presented by Andrew Leitch, Esq., Berry Ferry; second, £20; third, £5.
 Sec. 9—Bull, of any breed of Cattle other than Shorthorn, Hereford, or Alderney. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 10—Cow or Heifer, of any breed of Cattle other than Shorthorn, Hereford, or Alderney. First, £3; second, £2; third, H.C.
 Sec. 11—Dairy Cow, to be milked within 12 hours of judging. £2.
 (Cattle will not be allowed to compete as Stock.)

Class I—Sheep Dogs.
 Sheep Dog, to be tried under the direction of the judges. First, £3; second, £2; third, £1.

Champion Prizes.
 1—Best Bull in the yard over 3 yrs. First, £5.
 2—Best Cow or Heifer in the yard over 3 yrs. First, £5.
 3—Best Merino Ram in the yard, 4-tooth and over. First, £5.
 4—Best Merino Ewe in the yard, 4-tooth and over. First, £5.
 5—Best Shorthorn Animal, male or female, under 3 yrs. The Association's Silver Medal.
 6—Best Merino Sheep, under 3 yrs., having been shorn. The Association's Silver Medal.

Donations as follows have been made to the Association's funds:—F. Chisholm, Esq., Bull's Run, £100; Messrs. Donnelly Bros., Berrumbidgee, £10 10s.; A. T. Bolton, Esq., Wagga Wagga, £5 5s.; T. W. Hammond, Esq., J. Purcell, Esq., Young Creek, £4 4s.; David Robertson, Esq., Rockview, James, £2 2s.

Class J—Dogs.
 1—Greyhound Dog. First, £1; second, 10s.
 2—Greyhound Bitch. First, £1; second, 10s.
 3—Collie Dog. First, £1; second, 10s.
 4—Collie Bitch. First, £1; second, 10s.
 5—Fox Terrier Dog. First, £1; second, 10s.
 6—Fox Terrier Bitch. First, £1; second, 10s.
 7—Retriever Dog. First, £1; second, 10s.
 8—Retriever Bitch. First, £1; second, 10s.
 9—Best Dog or Bitch of any breed not mentioned above. First, £1; second, 10s.
 Dogs must have chains and collars, without names attached. No dog will be allowed on the chain. No dog on leash will be allowed on the ground.

Class K—Pigs.
 1—Boar of any breed. £2.
 2—Sow of any breed, £2.
 3—Fat Pig of any breed. £1.

Class L—Fowls.
 1—Dorking Cock and Hen. 10s.
 2—Game (black red) Cock and Hen. 10s.
 3—Game (duckwing) Cock and Hen. 10s.
 4—Game (any other breed). 10s.
 5—Dark Brahma-poultry. 10s.
 6—Light Brahma-poultry. 10s.
 7—Black Spanish. 10s.
 8—Polish Cock and Hen. 10s.
 9—Hamborough. 10s.
 10—Duck and Drake (Aylenbury). 10s.
 11—Duck and Drake (any other variety). 10s.
 12—Goose and Gander (any variety). 10s.
 13—Turkeys (Cock and Hen). 10s.

Class M—Farm Produce.
 (To be exhibited by the Grower.)
 1—3 bushels Wheat (any kind). First, £2; second, £1.
 2—3 bushels English Barley. First, £2; second, £1.
 3—3 bushels Oats. First, £1; second, 10s.
 4—3 bushels Maize. First, £1; second, 10s.
 5—1 cwt. Oaten Hay. First, £1; second, 10s.
 6—1 cwt. Oaten Chaff. First, £1; second, 10s.
 7—1 cwt. Wheatens Chaff. First, £1; second, 10s.
 8—Bag of Flour. £1.
 9—Bag of Pollard. 10s.
 10—Bag of Bran. 10s.
 11—50 lbs. Maltmeal. 10s.
 12—50 lbs. Oatmeal. 10s.
 13—Collection of Vegetables. First, £1; second, 10s.
 14—1 cwt. Potatoes. First, £1; second, 10s.
 15—1 cwt. New Potatoes. 10s.
 16—1 cwt. Sweet Potatoes. 10s.
 17—Onions (not less than 1 cwt.). 10s.
 18—1 dozen Pumpkins. 10s.
 19—1 dozen Cabbages. 10s.
 20—1 dozen Fodder, Roots. 10s.
 21—1 dozen Onions. 5s.
 22—1 dozen Swedish Turnips. 5s.
 23—1 dozen Turnips (any other variety). 5s.
 24—1 dozen Carrots. 5s.
 25—1 dozen Parsnips. 5s.
 26—1 dozen Cucumbers. 5s.
 27—1 dozen Sticks Celery. 5s.
 28—14 lbs. Dried Leaf Tobacco. 10s.

Class N—Dairy Produce.
 (To be exhibited by the Producer.)
 1—Butter (fresh) 5 lbs. First, £1; second, 10s.
 2—Butter (salt) 10 lbs. First, £1; second, 10s.
 3—Cheese. First, £1; second, 10s.
 4—Ham (two). First, £1; second, 10s.
 5—Bacon (two). First, £1; second, 10s.
 6—Lard (10 lbs.). 10s.

Class O—Jams, &c.
 1—Collection of Home-made Jams and Jellies, not less than six varieties. First, £1; second, 10s.
 2—Bottled Fruit (6 varieties). First, £1; second, H.C.
 3—Collection Dried Fruits. First, £1; second, H.C.
 4—Honey in Jars, 7 lbs. 10s.
 6—Honey in Crock, 7 lbs. 10s.

Class P—Colonial Wines.
 (To be exhibited by the Producer.)
 1—White Wine, any age, 6 bottles. First, £2; second, £1.
 2—Red Wine, any age, 6 bottles. First, £2; second, £1.

Class Q—Agricultural Implements.
 1—Winnow. First, £2; second, £1.
 2—Single-furrow Plough. First, £1; second, 10s.
 3—Double-furrow Plough. First, £1; second, 10s.
 4—Three-furrow Plough. First, £1; second, 10s.
 5—Set of Harrows. £1.
 6—Stripper. First, £1; second, 10s.
 7—Rotary Seed Sower. £1.
 8—Any other kind, Broadcast. £1.
 9—String Hammer and Binder. First, £2; second, £1.
 10—Hay Fork. £1.
 11—Chaff Cutter. £1.
 12—Horse Works. £1.
 13—Thrashing Machine. £2.
 14—Windmill. £2.
 15—Mowing Machine. £1.
 16—Ropeing Machine (side delivery). £1.
 17—Ropeing Machine (back delivery). £1.
 18—Farmer's Wool Press (not to exceed £40 in price). £2.

Class R—Drays, Buggies, &c.
 1—Double-seated Buggy, with hood. First, £1; second, 10s.
 2—Double-seated Buggy, without hood. First, £1; second, 10s.
 3—Single-seated Buggy, with hood. First, £1; second, 10s.
 4—Single-seated Buggy, without hood. First, £1; second, 10s.
 5—Dray and Frame. £1.
 6—Farm Wagon. £1.

Class S—Saddlery.
 1—Lady's Saddle. 10s.
 2—Gentleman's Saddle. 10s.
 3—Saddling. 10s.
 4—Set Double-buggy Harness. £1.
 5—Set Single-buggy Harness. £1.
 6—Dray Shaft Harness. 10s.
 7—Collection of Leather. £2.
 8—Collection of Saddlery. £2.

Messrs. Butler Brothers, saddlers, Sydney, offer a Silver Cup, value £5 5s., to be awarded to the Maker and Exhibitor of best English Gentleman's Saddle suitable for ordinary use, and without ornamentation.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Richard Cox, Esq., Marrar, £10 10s.
 1. Best appointed Four-in-hand.
 James Cochran, Esq., Wirrigera, £10.
 2. Lady's Hack, to be ridden by Lady, First, £2; second, £2; third, £2.
 Messrs. Dangar, Macdonald Brothers, Wattleburg, £2.
 3. Best appointed Turn-out and Pair.
 R. P. Best, Esq., Sandy Creek, £3 3s.
 4. Best Harness Pony under 14 hands.
 L. A. Fosbery, Esq., Wagga Wagga, £3 3s.
 5. Best Walking Hack in Class H, Sec. 1.
 M. H. Fennell, Esq., Wagga Wagga, £2 2s.
 Best Draught Yearling Colt or Filly got by b h Garibaldi.
 Thos. H. Mate, Esq., Umber, £10.
 6. Best Shorthorn Bull, 18 to 30 months old, bred by Exhibitor. Prize £3.
 7. Best Shorthorn Bull Calf, 9 to 15 months old, bred by Exhibitor. Prize, £3.
 8. Best Shorthorn Heifer, 9 to 15 months old, bred by Exhibitor. Prize, £2.
 Robert McIntyre, Esq., Glenfield, £10.
 9. Best Shorthorn Heifer, 2 to 3 yrs old. £5.
 10. Best Shorthorn Animal, male or female, under 3 yrs. £5.
 Angus Robertson, Esq., Yarrabee, £100.
 11. Most perfect Merino Sheep, to be shown as 2-tooth in 1885, and shorn on the ground, and to be shown as 4-tooth in 1886, the same Sheep to be adjudged the best in each year to be entitled to the Prize. Otherwise, the Sheep respectively adjudged the best in 1885 and 1886 must be shorn on the ground in 1886, and shown again in 1887, when the Prize will be awarded to the Sheep then adjudged the better.
 Messrs. R. Goldsmith and Co., 24 guineas.
 12. Best 2 Merino Rams, 1 year, shorn as lambs, bred by Exhibitor. Plate, value 12 guineas.
 13. Best 3 Merino Rams, 2 years, bred by Exhibitor. Plate, value 12 guineas.
 Samuel McCaughey, Esq., Coonong, £20.
 14. Best pen of 4 Merino Sheep, bred by Exhibitor, consisting of 1 Ram 4-tooth or over, 1 Ram 2-tooth or under, 1 Ewe 4-tooth or over, 1 Ewe 2-tooth or under, all having been shorn.
 A. Lucian Faithfull, Esq., Springfield, £20.
 15. Best Merino Ram in Class K, Section 1, to be bred by the Exhibitor. £10.
 16. Best Merino Ram in Class EE, Section 1, to be bred by the Exhibitor. £10.
 George J. Mulholland, Esq., Ouse, £15.
 17. Best pen 20 Ewes, 2-tooth or rising 2-tooth, bred by Exhibitor. Prize: First, £10; second, £5.
 Australian Mortgage, Land, and Finance Co. (by W. A. Cottes, Esq.)
 18. Best pen of 2 Sheep, consisting of 1 Ram 2-tooth or under and 1 Ewe 2-tooth or under, having been shorn, bred in N.S.W. by Exhibitor.
 Abraham Booth, Esq., Gobbagumblin, £10 10s.
 19. Best pen of 7 Merino Sheep, consisting of 2 Merino Rams 2 tooth or under, and 5 Merino Ewes 2-tooth or under, having been shorn, bred by Exhibitor.
 Messrs. Holden and Sons, Goughrie, £10 10s.
 20. Best pen of 2 full-mouthed Rams, bred by Exhibitor, and grazed only on pastures grown without irrigation or other artificial aid.
 Frederick H. Moore Esq. (Dalgety and Co.), Sydney, Plate £10 10s.
 21. Best pen of 3 Ewes, 2-tooth Merino, Station-bred.
 Messrs. Wilkinson, Graves, and Lavender, Sydney and Wagga Wagga, £10 10s.
 22. Best 2-tooth Merino Ram, grass-fed, bred by Exhibitor. £3 3s.
 23. Best 4-tooth Merino Ram, grass-fed, bred by Exhibitor. £3 3s.
 G. R. Drysdale, Esq., Bynah, £10 10s.
 24. Best pen of 2 full-mouthed Merino Ewes, grass fed, bred by Exhibitor.
 Messrs. Harrison, Jones, and Devlin, Sydney, £5 5s.
 25. Best 2-tooth Merino Ewe, grass fed, bred by Exhibitor. £3 3s.
 26. Best 4-tooth Merino Ewe, grass fed, bred by Exhibitor. £3 3s.
 Messrs. Mori and Co., Sydney, Plate £3 3s.
 27. Best pen of 3 Ewe Haggies, bred by Exhibitor.
 Alexander Davidson, Esq., Ballanahong, £5.
 28. Best 2 Haggie Rams, unshorn.
 J. S. Horsfall, Esq. (Goldsmith and Co.), Melbourne, £12 12s.
 29. Best Merino Ewe in Class E, Sec. 4, to be bred by the Exhibitor. £3 3s.
 30. Best Merino Ewe in Class EE, Sec. 4, to be bred by the Exhibitor. £3 3s.

Above: Details of the 1885 MPA 21st annual show program.⁵⁵

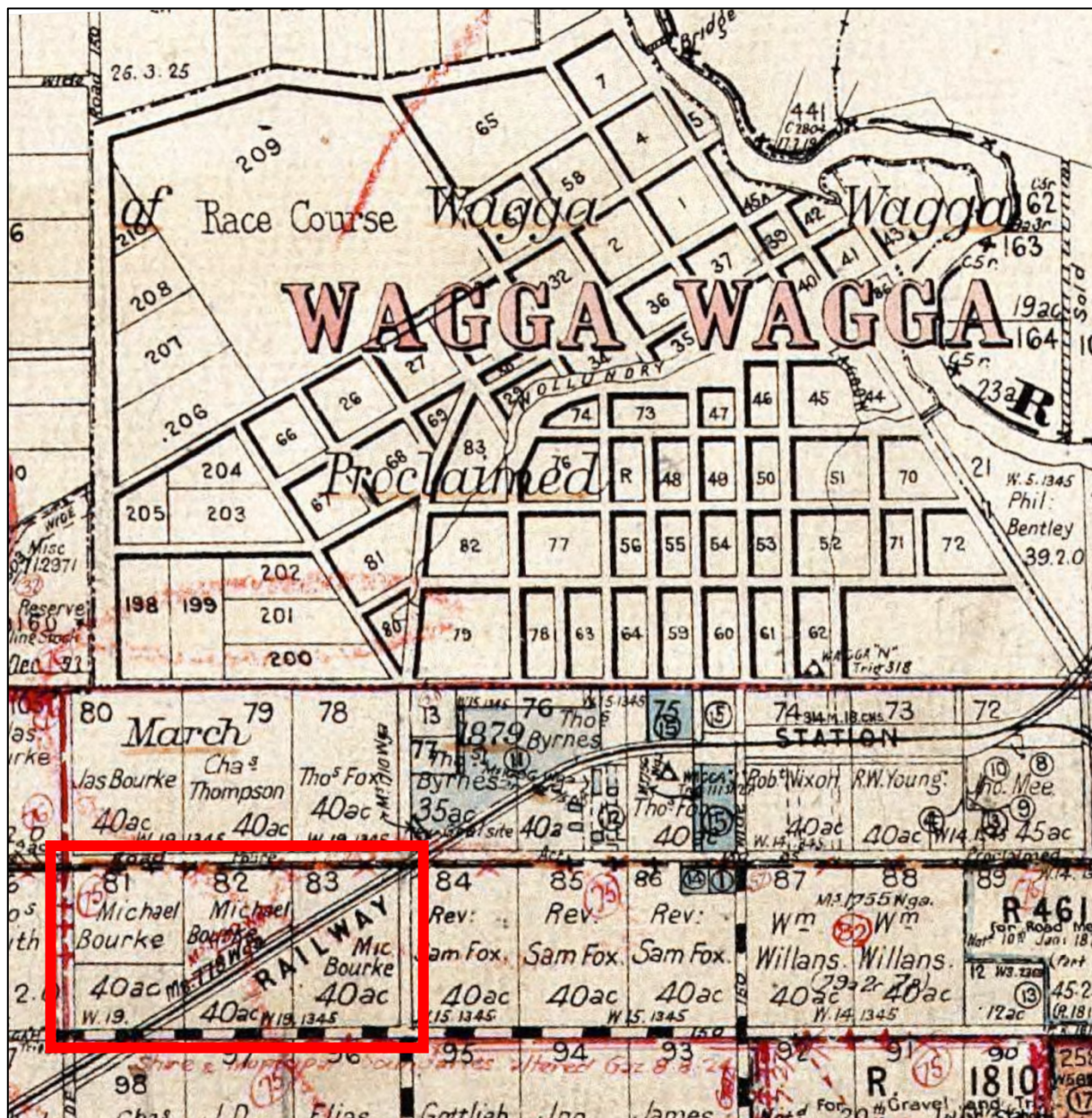


Above and Below: The third and final showground site. Above Image, out of copyright, source unknown, supplied by author. Below Image, Courtesy of the NSW State Archives (NRS-4481-3-[7/15906]-M5855).



Freehold

The third and final site for the show ground at Wagga Wagga was a parcel of land that traversed parts of portions 81, 82 & 83, in the parish of South Wagga Wagga. The township of Wagga Wagga gradually expanded sufficiently to engulf these portions.



Above: Extract from 1921 parish map showing the location of portions 81, 82, and 83, in the parish of South Wagga Wagga. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

All three lots were originally purchased from the Crown by Michael Bourke, of Sandy Creek, on the 7th January 1859. Bourke paid forty pounds for each portion, each of which had an area of forty acres.⁵⁶

On the 3rd March 1862, Michael Bourke, a squatter of Sandy Creek Station, near Wagga Wagga, transferred portions 81, 82, and 83, along with portion 111, to Robert Irvine, a squatter of Tootal Station, for the sum of one hundred and seventy three pounds.⁵⁷

When the trustees for the Murrumbidgee Pastoral & Agricultural Association (MPAA) purchased their new showground site in 1885, the government had already resumed parts of each portion for the Great Southern Railway line, which cut across all three portions. The parcel of land purchased by the MPAA trustees lay to the south of the railway line, bound on the north and west by the railway line, on the south by Urana Road, and on the east by what was then known as the Albury Road (now Bourke Street).

On the 20th March 1885, the trustees – Henry Baylis, Thomas Wardle Hammond, and Alexander Davidson (senior) - purchased a part of portion 82, from the estate of the late Robert Irvine of Tootool Station for the sum of one hundred and ninety two pounds.⁵⁸ The land purchased had an area of twelve acres, three roods and eight perches.

Irvine estates was divided between his beneficiaries, and the trustees were compelled to contract with three of these. Portion 82 had been left to David Robert Irvine.

Part of portion 83 was purchased from a third beneficiary, George Patrick Irvine, on the 17th March 1885. This land had an area of twenty-eight acres, three roods, and eight perches, for which the trustees paid four hundred and thirty-two pounds.⁵⁹

A part of portion 81 was purchased from Alexander James Irvine, for the sum of eleven pounds, seventeen shillings, and seven pence, on the 24th July 1888. The land had an area of three roods plus 6 ³/₄ perches.⁶⁰

The total area secured by 1888 was 43 acres, nil roods, and 19³/₄ perches.

⁵⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Year 1859, page numbers 972, 973, and 974.

⁵⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 77, number 848.

⁵⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 307, number 343.

⁵⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 307, number 342.

⁶⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 394, number 244.

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.
Murrumbidgee Pastoral & Agricultural Association.

TENDERS are required for the ERECTION of FIRST SECTIONS of the new AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, and FINE ARTS HALL, together with other Alterations and Additions to premises at Show Ground.

Plans, specifications, and full information can be obtained from Mr. Geo. Sheppard.

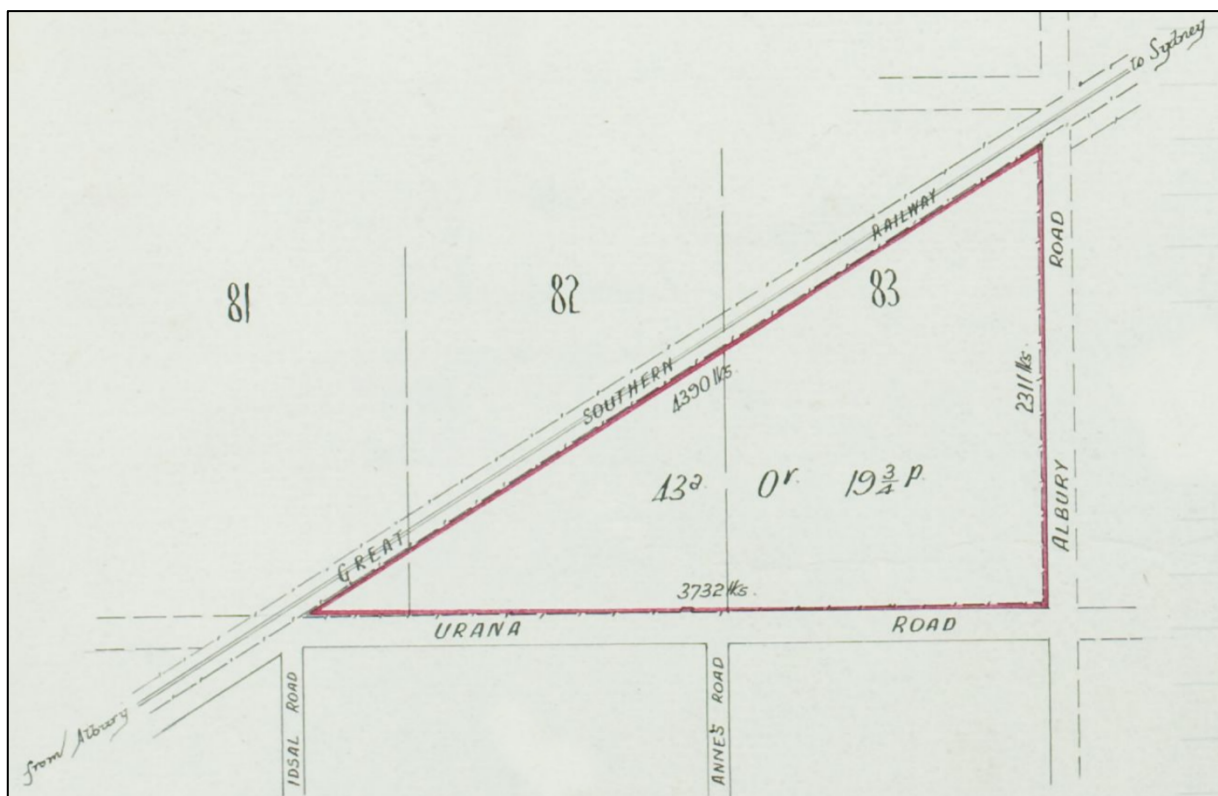
Tenders must be lodged with the under signed not later than noon on **TUESDAY, 10th July instant.**

C. H. CROAKER,
 Secretary.

Left: Tenders sought for further improvements in July 1888.⁶¹

In March 1904 the holding was converted to Torrens title by the trustees.⁶²

The title deed was eventually (post 1975) converted to a computer folio (volume 13539, folio 88). The current plan is DP.1.62738.



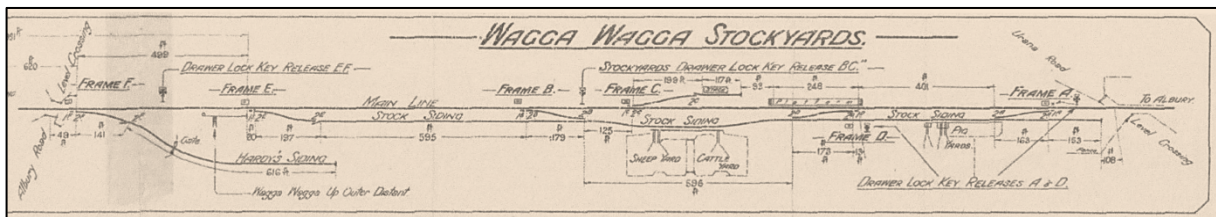
Above: Extract from title deed showing the boundaries of the showground in 1904, exactly as purchased in 1885 and 1888. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

⁶¹ *Daily Advertiser*, 7th July 1888, p. 3.

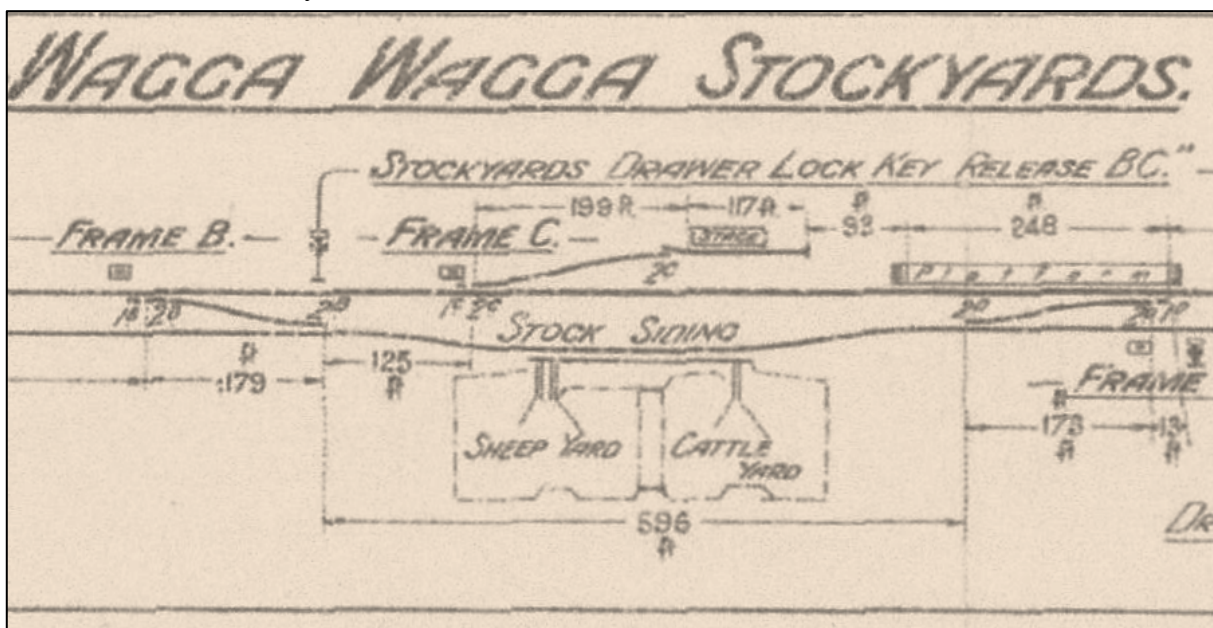
⁶² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 1524, folio 161. (see also PA.12738).



Above: A 1944 aerial view of the site. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.



Above: Plan of the rail platform at the showground shows the various sidings associated with that section of the line, including one to the Wagga Wagga showground. Courtesy NSW State Archives. NSW Railway.



Above: Zoom view.

The Trustees

The trustees changed over time. In June 1893 the trustees were Henry Baylis, Thomas Wardle Hammond, and Alexander Smith (Alexander Davidson had passed away).⁶³

In March 1910 the then trustees – Alexander Smith, Andrew Leitch, and Henry Thompson Davidson, conveyed the holding to Alexander Smith, Henry Thompson Davidson, and John George Fletcher (joint tenants).⁶⁴

In December 1919, Alexander Smith was deceased, and the new trustees were Henry Thompson Davidson, John George Fletcher, and Henry Ernest Mitchelmore.

Following the death of John George Fletcher, new trustees were appointed in December 1927 – Henry Thompson Davidson, a grazier of East Bullenbong; Henry Ernest Mitchelmore, a solicitor of Wagga Wagga; Allan Howard Smith, a grazier of Kyeamba; John Wells Shephard, a farmer of Wagga Wagga; and Thomas Hodgson Brunskill, a dealer of Wagga Wagga.

In July 1938, Henry Thompson Davidson, deceased, was removed from the list of trustees. Davidson was replaced by Raymond Henry Fletcher, a grazier of Walteela, near Wagga Wagga.

By April 1941, Henry Ernest Mitchelmore was deceased, and the trustees were now Thomas Vincent Brunskill, a grazier of Wagga Wagga; Allan Howard Smith; John Wells Shephard; Thomas Hodgson Brunskill; and Raymond Henry Fletcher.

The death of Allan Howard Smith in 1951, saw the additional appointments of William Henry Simpson, a grazier of Wagga Wagga, and Charles Ernest Lionel Mortimer, a solicitor of Wagga Wagga, as trustees.⁶⁵

In October 1960 the trustees were, John Wells Shephard (retired); Thomas Vincent Brunskill, a grazier of Forest Hill; Charles Ernest Mortimer, a solicitor of Wagga Wagga; William Henry Simpson, a grazier of Gregadoo; and Ralph Stanley Holloway, an agent of Wagga Wagga.

In December 1966 the trustees were Thomas Vincent Brunskill, a grazier of Forest Hill; Charles Ernest Mortimer, a solicitor of Wagga Wagga; William Henry Simpson, a grazier of Gregadoo; Ralph Stanley Holloway, an agent of Wagga Wagga; and Murray Donald Grant, a grazier of Harefield.

In February 1973 the trustees were Thomas Vincent Brunskill, a grazier of Forest Hill; Ralph Stanley Holloway, an agent of Wagga Wagga; Murray Donald Grant, a grazier of Harefield; Robert Lancaster Brunskill, a grazier of Wagga Wagga; and James Henry Henderson, a grazier of Wagga Wagga.

In August 1975 the trustees were Thomas Vincent Brunskill, a grazier of Forest Hill; Ralph Stanley Holloway, an agent of Wagga Wagga; Murray Donald Grant, a grazier of Harefield; James Henry Henderson, a grazier of Wagga Wagga; and Bob Walter Anderson McGeoch, a grazier of Wagga Wagga.

⁶³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 517, number 67. / Volume 1524, folio 161.

⁶⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 1524, folio 161.

⁶⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Volume 6434, folio 228.