



Historical Rambling

Jul 2022, Vol. 21 No. 01

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WENTWORTH HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.**

HOW TO CONTACT US...

Come to our meetings
Commencing February then on
the 1st Thursday of every
second month at 2 pm, usually
at the Wentworth Shire Library,
Short Street, Wentworth.

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Write

The Secretary
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Executive

President: Jenny McLeod
V/President: Sherry Lewis
Secretary: Ann Dawes
Minute Secretary: Peggy McKenzie
Treasurer: Dianne Boyd
Public Officer: Peggy McKenzie
Committee :
Wilma Follett
Elaine Grace
Rosemary Bruce-Mullins
Jeannette Hope

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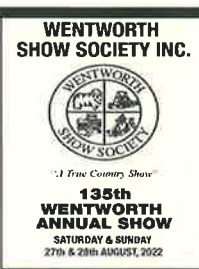
**Wentworth & District
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Wentworth Show

With the Wentworth Show coming out of its COVID induced sabbatical in this issue of Historical Ramblings we look back at the beginnings of the show all those years ago.

This year's show is on 27th & 28th August 2022 at the Wentworth Showgrounds.

You can download the Show Schedule from www.wentworthshow.org.au/the-2022-wentworth-show-schedule.



Wentworth Showgrounds

Message from the President, Jenny McLeod.

Hello Everyone,
So far this year we have been able to have meetings as usual.

I'm happy to report that the research work on 'Saluting Their Service' is nearly completed. This leaves us the double checking, making appropriate corrections, etc. We are progressing.

We are looking forward to being able to attend the 2022 Wentworth Show, and to see the new Pavilion in use. It is always an enjoyable experience.

Please stay safe.
Best wishes,
Jenny.

The next meeting of the
Wentworth Historical Society Inc
will be held at the
Wentworth Shire Library
4th August 2022, 2pm

Wentworth Pastoral and Agricultural Society

The first show was held by the Wentworth Pastoral and Agricultural Society in 1885 with the rules of the Society stating that the objects "shall be to promote the improvement of the breed and quality of stock, and to encourage a spirit of emulation against all engaged in pastoral and agricultural pursuits by offering prizes, to be competed for periodically, for the best exhibits of Stock, Agricultural Produce &c."

That first show had sections for **Sheep** (Merino Rams, Grass Fed; Merino Ewes, Grass Fed; Merino Sheep (Farmer's Section); Merino Sheep, Artificially Fed) **Cattle** (Shorthorn Cattle), **Horses** (Thoroughbred Horses; Draught Horses; Carriage and Buggy Horses; Hunters and Hacks), **Dogs, Poultry and Swine; Implements, Machinery, Saddlery and Vehicles; Needlework and Garden Produce etc.**, many of these sections still appear in the current show schedule.

The success of the day was reported in "The Argus" newspaper on 08 Oct 1885 "THE WENTWORTH SHOW. (BY TELEGRAPH FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENCE.) WENTWORTH, WEDNESDAY "The first show of the Wentworth Pastoral and Agricultural Society was yesterday, and was a decided success in the number of exhibits and the attendance. The Bishop of Riverina was present. Messrs. Walter Tully, Merungle, F. L. Parker, Quiamong and A. R. Pegler, Ned's Corner, judged the sheep, of which there were 80 exhibits. The season having been a trying one, it was not expected that the wool would show to great advantage and some of the young sheep were stunted, but notwithstanding these adverse circumstances, the judges were highly pleased with the exhibits, and stated that some of the prize sheep would take high places at the metropolitan and leading country shows. Mr William Crozier, Moorna, won the grand champion ram prize with an artificially fed sheep, aged 2 years; and Mr. Ormond and Brooke Bros., Tapio, the grand champion ewe with an artificially feed ewe, aged 2½ years. These exhibitors gained 32 prizes out of 44 in the sheep class The Tapio selected rams sold up to 41 guineas. Cattle were largely represented, but the horses dogs, &c., were numerous, and there were some magnificent exhibits, in oranges and lemons, Messrs W. J. Holding, and D. and D. H. Cudmore taking five first prizes respectively. A ball will be held to night. The weather is dry but a change appears imminent." ¹

Another attraction where exhibitors displayed their skills was the **Wentworth Chrysanthemum Show**.

We were unable to go to the Wentworth Show, and are sure that we missed a great treat. The general excellence of the exhibits was admitted on all sides. Mr Sewell, the well-known horticulturalist of Adelaide, was one of the judges, and he handed in a special report, which refers to the exhibition in very flattering terms. The Federal Standard gives a complete list of the prize-winners, and we notice that Mrs. Chatto, Mr. Du Rieu and Mr. Higgins fairly equally divided the honours in Section A. Mr. Gurney also received several prizes, and his Golden Empress of India was especially mentioned as a magnificent bloom. Mrs Chatto received the honours for six hybrid Japanese varieties and Miss Davie received a similar distinction for a beautiful yellow bloom -L'Inconnue. The general exhibit of pot plants is also described as being excellent. Mr. Gurney again coming well to the fore. The cut flowers, bouquets, and button-holes attracted much attention. Mrs Rhodes took first prize for 24 single chrysanthemum bloom other than pom-poms. In the section devoted to fruit and vegetables Mr. J. Gurney had a walkover in nearly every case. Mrs. Chatto, Mr McHenry and Miss Edwards managing between them to take three out of the fourteen prizes. The Champion prize for the best chrysanthemum in the show was awarded to Mr. E. Du Rieu for Patric. In every respect the exhibition was a fine success and proved how generously nature will bestow her floral gifts on those who treat her kindly. Hitherto little has been said about the floriculture capabilities of the Lower Murray district, but experts who have seen the results obtained here say that for roses, chrysanthemums and pansies, this locality will beat anything in the world. Big words but show us another place where pansies will bloom for eight months continuously, or where you can find roses 16 inches in circumference and chrysanthemums almost as large. ²



Over the years a number of fine trophies have been awarded to exhibitors.



Photo by Steven WILSON

In 1888 this medallion was presented as First Prize to G. Gallagher for a **Collection of Saddlery** at the 1888 Wentworth Show. It appears that Mr Gallagher was a regular at the Shows as in 1885 it was reported that "In saddlery Mr. Gallagher deserves special mention for his fine exhibit in this class, everything having been made at Wentworth, and being of really first-class workmanship." ⁴

This silver water pitcher was awarded at the 1889 Wentworth Show "Presented to J T Wilson, Tiltunga by A. Gilmour Mt Pleasant SA for the Best Ram and Ewe Section C Wentworth NSW 1889". At the 125th show in 2010 a photograph of the pitcher was on display thanks to the current custodian Don Wilson, who is the great great grandson, of J T Wilson. Tiltunga was part of Oakbank Station on The Anabranh and the pitcher has been handed down to the eldest son of each generation. ³

In the 1930 ornate certificates were awarded for home produce, this one to Miss A C Dunn for a jar of Plum Jam.



Wentworth Show Society Inc

The Show has added a variety of activities and events to entertain patrons. The 2005 Wearable fashions from Wool Bales saw these creations presented for judging - such imagination !



Displays of photography are also well supported at the Show....



Sarah Pollard



.... as are Horse Show Jumping events



.... and Dog Show events



(If you know the names of the people in these photos, please let us know as they were not provided when the photos were donated to the History Society historical@wentworth.nsw.gov.au)

Wentworth Show Society—Volunteers

A much valued resource of any community organisation is the volunteers. Events like the Wentworth Show would not happen without their support and dedication. Whether it be

Helping with maintenance



Elaine Grace

Preparing Certificates and Ribbons



Bob Duncan and Rodger Smith

Co-Ordinating events



Setting up displays

Welcoming you at the gate ...



Wentworth Historical Society Inc



Society President Jenny McLEOD receiving cheque from Rotary President Joe KERVIN.

are very grateful for grant funding from the **Wentworth Rotary Community Op Shop** which will enable us to acquire archival products, for larger documents and maps to preserve our collection and assist local community members preserve theirs.

And all the other jobs that are needed to make the show happen President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Members, Stewards, Judges, and the list goes on and on and on



Marg Thomson, Sue Thompson, unknown

Endnotes

- ¹ "PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL SHOWS." *The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957)* 8 October 1885: 5. Web. 15 Jul 2022 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article6067641>
- ² "Wentworth Chrysanthemum Show." *The Mildura Cultivator (Vic. : 1888 - 1920)* 15 May 1890: 5 (TWELVE-PAGE EDITION.). Web. 15 Jul 2022 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article76609094>
- ³ "125 Years and Still Going Strong" *NSW Standard Bulletin* (Wentworth, NSW) 02 Sep 2010.
- ⁴ "WENTWORTH SHOW." *South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900)* 12 October 1885: 7. Web. 15 Jul 2022 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44539697>>.