

1991

At the beginning of 1991 the Society's financial position was sound. There was a credit balance of \$3,778 in the general account; \$5,257 credit on term deposit, an overdraft of \$11,143 on the Loan Account, \$9 in the Building account, and a credit of \$3,832 in an Investment Account.

The shower block was to lock-up stage.

The February 7th meeting was told that the Army would not be able to take part in the annual. Show because of the uncertain state of the war in the Gulf.

Mr. M. Duras resigned at the 7th March meeting because of family commitments.

That meeting agreed to pay for the showers in full.

The 4th April meeting was displeased that the word "Showgrounds" had been deleted from the title "Wodonga Racecourse Recreation Reserve" and wanted to know the reason for the deletion and when it had occurred.

At the 2nd May meeting it was decided to send a letter to the Racecourse Recreation Reserve regarding their desire to lease a large piece of land. The letter would state that the Society agreed in principle to the lease providing negotiations took place with the Show Society. The lease should be subject to certain conditions; the road should be sealed and maintained with no cost to the Show Society, no buildings should be erected on the leased land, and all legal costs should be paid by the Racecourse Recreation Reserve, no fences would be erected and there must be guaranteed access to Show Society related vehicles.

The 1991 AGM was held on 6th June and received, with regret, the resignation of secretary/treasurer, Mrs. Judi Hale.

The investment a/c was \$3,970 in credit, the Loan A/c reduced to \$7,827, the building a/c \$9.87 and the Debenture A/c cancelled out.

In his annual report, President Ray Pollard said the Show's first 2-day event had been held in perfect weather and was successful.

Ray Pollard was re-elected President with R. Hempel and N. Bottrell-and B. Prichard vice-presidents.

The meeting of 1st August decided to send Mr. R. Hempel and Mr. D. Beeley to a meeting with the Wodonga City Council to discuss further development of the Stud Stock Centre. The Council offered to raise a loan for the Show Society but the Titles must be handed to Council. Lorraine McRae expressed concern but R. Hempel said the Society's solicitor, C. Stitz recommended agreeing to the deal.

An offer of \$20,000 from a Breed Society was discussed.

Mr. Beeley presented a plan of the grounds and sheds and said photos had been taken of all sheds inside and out.

The Society proposed upgrading the cattle washes, the entrance to the selling centre, the judging ring and tie rails.

Mrs. C. Cole was introduced as the new Show Society Secretary. Mrs. L. McRae was elected Treasurer.

An extraordinary meeting on 29th August was told many meetings had been held about upgrading the stud stock selling centre - they included meetings with the Moteliers group, the Task Force and Breed Societies.

Mr. Beeley explained plans presented to the Wodonga City Council to refurbish the yards and sale ring and the proposed schedule of redevelopment, and likely costs. The predicted income was presently only an estimate but the Breed Societies preferred a set fee of \$45 a head for the next 4 years, estimated to raise \$220,000. The stockyards, judging ring, water supply and cattle wash would be priorities before the 1992 sales.

Talks had been held with the Bank Manager who approved the Council talks but stressed the importance of a long-term lease of at least 20-25 years and, if possible, 50 years in order to maintain control of the grounds, and profits. Fees recommended by Wodonga Council were: \$45 shedded, \$45 per pen, 1% semen and 1% embryos and \$30 head unshedded bulls.

It was suggested writing into the lease that the grounds must be kept for recreational purposes. It was also stressed that legal advice be obtained to draw up a viable contract between the Show Society and the Council. Mr. C. Stitz, the Society's legal adviser, called for a comprehensive agreement to be drawn up for submission to the Council and said he would attend to this.

The resolution of the discussion was that the Wodonga Council be advised it would agree to transfer title to Council in return for a secure tenure on the whole site for a term to be defined and upon other conditions to be agreed. Mr. Stitz was appointed as legal advisor to the Task Force of Mr. R. Hempel, and Mr. N. Forrest. Mr. Mike Cummins, representing the breed societies had been appointed to the Task Force in an advisory capacity. Three cattle breed societies and the Wodonga Dept. of Agriculture offered assistance and the Development Corporation was approached.

The meeting of 3rd October 1991 was told the proposed Council charges for the Stud Stock Selling Centre were \$45 per head let cattle for 4 years, \$30 per pen with maximum of 3 per pen for commercial cattle; unshedded cattle and reduction and dispersal sales, \$10 head fee discussed for overnights. The Agents fee will be \$50 registration fee and 50c per lot. 1% embryo charge to vendor, 1% semen charge to vendor.

Mr. Stitz expressed misgivings about the proposed financial restructure with the Show Society and Council each responsible for half of the loan and the breed societies' reluctance to commit themselves to the project.

The Council suggested the Society gain a licence for the period covering the Show and the Committee of Management conduct all other activities. Council hinted at supporting the show from proceeds of Stud Sales and Shows. The Council was agreeable to retaining the land for recreational purposes and willing to loan the Show Society money to repay the bank loan. The Society had \$6,000 in hand and proceeds from the October sales and

Clydesdale sale to repay the debt. The Council proposed beginning work immediately following the Clydesdale Sale on 9th November.

Mr. Hempel reported Town Clerk, Mr. Ray O'Toole, saying a superintendent would be needed by the Committee of Management to check the cattle, and saleyards staff would clean up after the Shows and Sales.

The arena and yards would be ready for the 1992 sales and the complex completed by 1994.

The 7th November meeting was presented with the first draft of the agreement on the Stud Stock Selling Centre which was prepared by the Council's solicitors. Present at the meeting was Town Clerk, Mr. Ray O'Toole and Cr. Glen Nicholls. Considerable discussion over proposed changes to the land and buildings occupied most of the meeting.

At the meeting of 14th November, Mrs. Lorraine McCrae expressed concern that the Show Society may not be working in its interests with regard to its negotiations with the Wodonga City Council.

The meeting of 5th December was told by the Treasurer, Lorraine McCrae the Society was in credit to a total of \$6,837. She tendered her resignation on the grounds she felt her efforts would no longer be served in the best interests of the Society's ideals and traditions due to the new direction the Society was pursuing. She also expressed concern at the possible loss of pavilion names of historical value.

Mr. J. McGrath spoke against the proposed agreement with the Council and D. Beeley said the \$60,000 grant would not be available unless it went ahead.

1992

Tony Anderson joined the Society at the first meeting for the year on 2nd January. The resignation of Mrs. McCrae was accepted. Mr. Anderson was appointed Treasurer.

Mr. McGrath reminded members that the Council proposed removing from the Society's buildings it would be responsible for, the names of those buildings.

Mr. Beeley moved that a special meeting be called regarding the transfer of the Society's land to Council and a letter be sent to all members eligible to vote.

A special general meeting was held on 20th February to further discuss the contract between the Society and Council and to consider votes of members.

After long debate and some opposition to the handing over of the Stud Stock selling Centre to the Wodonga Council it was put to the vote with 41 in favour of the change and 19 against, the agreement. The main concern was lack of support from the Breed Societies and any guarantee they would continue to use the Selling Centre. The Council had already begun spending \$600,000 to improve the Centre. C. Stitz pointed out that this was a contract between the Show Society and the Wodonga Council and no covenant was placed on the land to ensure it is kept for recreational purposes.

Stitz regarded the vote as inconclusive and moved calling another meeting at least one month away.

At that meeting T. Anderson announced his resignation and the meeting was told Ian Marshall would accept the position of Treasurer.

A second special general meeting was held on 26th March at which the unrest of members was evident. C. Stitz said he could not see why the Society and Council couldn't work together. He also said nine members would resign. The new treasurer, I. Marshall, said the Society's financial situation was not healthy at present and no institution would lend it money. John Fisher said "We are giving the land to the Council". Peter Adams suggested a long term lease but N. Forrest said the land has to be passed over to the Council because it was unable to invest public funds unless Council controlled the land. C. Stitz said the Council needed to own the land to gain a Government grant. N. Bottrell pointed out that breeders of stock were holding sales on their own properties to save costs. Jim McGrath queried whether approx. 25 people who paid membership before the Show were entitled to vote and H. Price said the constitution provided that new members must be approved by the Committee.

Proxies were checked and after counting of the ballot papers and proxies President, R. Pollard announced 68 for and 20 against the proposal - however the vote was lost because 75% were not sufficient to carry the vote.

Treasurer, Ian Marshall, told the meeting of 2nd April the show had made a profit of \$2,000. Total gate takings were \$15,142.

A number of resignations were tendered to the meeting from: T. Barton, R. Hempel, K. & P. Sutherland, B. Reuss, C. Cogdell, A. Brewer, R. Pollard. R. Prichard moved the resignations not be accepted.

C. Stitz said there was a need to look at the total picture - the whole deal had fallen through due to membership voting against the title being transferred to Wodonga Council - therefore the Council is not eligible for the Government grant. Marshall suggested the Council might take over the Stud Stock Centre and the Show Society retain the rest. He moved the proposal be taken to Council that the title be subdivided to transfer to Council the minimum necessary area of land and an administrative building be built from the proceeds. N. Forrest, after that motion was carried, moved that no money be spent on any part of the grounds and buildings except for safety purposes while negotiations were under way. That motion was carried too. C. Stitz said the Show Society was still liable for the bank loan the interest for which was \$85 per month. He moved that the Society's next general meeting define membership, the Committee and the number on the Committee as defined by the Constitution.

Another special meeting was held on 23rd April and heard that the Wodonga Council had given authority to certain Councillors to negotiate with the Show Society with the Society retaining half of the land, (the bottom end including the toilet block.) It was decided to send to all members a map and explanatory note of the amended proposals and invite them to vote at a meeting on 28th May.

In answer to a question from Mrs. Betty McLean, the Secretary said she had not received any letters against the agreement.

Mr. Dennis Beeley resigned at the meeting of 7th May but his resignation was left to lie on the table with the other resignations which had not been accepted.

Another special meeting of the Society was held on 28th May to hear the progress on discussions with the Wodonga Council. The meeting agreed in principle for negotiations to continue between the Society and the Council with the committee consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two other society members. However, G. Coyle said he did not think the Society should part with all its land. A vote was taken with 42 in favour of the continuing discussions and 5 against.

1992 AGM - The AGM was held on 4th June and welcomed Peter Adams as the new Show Society President. Neil Bottrell was appointed vice-president. Ian Marshall was reappointed Treasurer.

At the following general meeting it was decided to appoint sub-committees for each section with the chairman of each sub-committee invited to attend meetings of the general committee.

For several meetings there had been concern voiced that money for stud stock sales was held by the Wodonga Council instead of being placed in Show Society accounts. Ian Marshall had contacted D. Beeley and been told that Council had sent bills for the last five catalogues for the sum of approximately \$19,000. This money will be held in trust by Council with the distribution yet to be decided. A Committee was elected to negotiate with the Council.

The Committee accepted the resignations of those committee people who had resigned.

Peter Adams said he did not wish to be paid to carry out his duties as President of the Society.

The resignation of Arthur Lock was received, and accepted.

At a special meeting on 17th July, Secretary C. Cole resigned and Mrs. Thelma Wright was appointed to take her place.

The purpose of the meeting was to form a committee structure to run the Show. This was done.

The meeting of 6th August heard from C. Stitz that the Council's solicitor suggested all land be transferred to the Council as he considered there would be problems with transferring only half of it. Mr. Stitz said there were many areas still to be discussed.

On 3rd September Treasurer, I. Marshall reported the Society's financial situation as being a credit balance of \$1,400 at the Annual General Meeting of 1992. However after the payment of bank charges, payment of accounts etc. there was now a debit balance of \$2,074.

Peter Adams asked the Council to release some funds held in Trust in order to conduct normal Society transactions but the money was refused. At the Council's request a statement of income and expenditure showing a shortfall of \$11,000 was submitted to the Council, On the motion of C. Stitz it was decided to transfer money held in the savings deposit to the current account.

Council's technical services officer, Bruce Pooley attended the meeting and reported on the progress of updating the cattle selling facilities.

The Wodonga Council holds \$28,236 in the Trust account - it was decided therefore to ask the Council to pay for accounts charged to the Wodonga Show Society for expense incurred for the Stud Stock Centre.. The accounts included \$1,000 for the State Electricity Commission, \$750 for work on gates and \$200 for straw. C. Stitz reported that negotiations with the Council on the transfer of the land were at a stalemate with the Council concerned at having only half. He had told the Council the Society had a covenant on half to be used by the Wodonga Council stating it must always be available for public use and suggested the Council act similarly with the Society's half.

Mr. Stitz said the Council had obtained large funding from the federal budget and this might help the Council work towards final agreement.

It was reported to the meeting of 1st October that the Wodonga Council had paid the accounts forwarded by the Society for construction of cattle yards and rent on toilets and made an advance payment of \$6,230 towards the cost of the 1993 Show subject to the provision of a proposed budget.

C. Stitz reported little progress with the transfer of land. However, each body will have a covenant on the land owned by the other party with the land always to be for public use. The Council might eventually purchase the Show Society land for public open space if the Show Society decides to move the value of the land is not great. Consideration will be given to the possibility of buying out the Society at public use value or to replacement with land of similar value, the move to be at the Society's timing, possibly 15 years, one would prefer 10 years.

On 5th November Mr. Stitz said 'in principal' agreement regarding the Wodonga Show Society moving had been agreed to, if no wish to move anytime after five years. Possibility of settlement 1st December.

Tenders would be called for the removal of the pigeon and pony club sheds. The 3rd December meeting was told a tender for \$900 had been approved to remove the pigeon and pony club sheds.

Water charges, water conservation and the difficulty of policing who uses what water from the various mains outlets are to be the subject of a meeting with Wodonga Water Trust's Mr. Pat Nally.

A new Common Seal was adopted by the Society at a special Committee meeting on 8th December.

It was moved by I. Marshall, seconded by N. Bottrell, that the agreement with the Rural City of Wodonga in relation to the Stud Stock Selling Centre tabled by the Wodonga Show Society's solicitor, be approved and executed under seal and the fixing of the Common Seal be attested by two Committee members. The motion was carried.

A bank loan of \$9,943 from Westpac Bank, Wodonga would be paid out by the Show Society using \$8,000 to be received from the Wodonga Council as part payment.

The Society acknowledged the assistance of Bellbridge Hague and the Society's solicitor, C. Stitz and the fact that the Wodonga Council has paid all solicitor's costs in the transfer of the Stud Stock Centre and land.

1993

On 7th January 1993, the Committee was told that the Wodonga Council wanted two representatives on the Stud Stock Special Committee of Management. Two names were submitted for the society's approval: John Waite representing the Wodonga Turf Club and Don Gadd nominated by the Breed Societies. Under the terms of the Agreement two people were to be nominated as residents of Wodonga and one interested in Stud Stock. The meeting decided it had no objection to John Waite as a resident, but the Wodonga Turf Club was not entitled to nominate a representative. The meeting did not object to Don Gadd but the Breed Societies did not have power to nominate a representative. The Committee will write to the Council pointing out that the two representatives should be members of the Wodonga community.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3,660.

The Council will be asked for the promised \$6,250 which was to have been paid by the end of December.

The meeting of 4th February honored Mr. J. McGrath and his work for the Society over many years with a special birthday cake and card, to mark his 80th birthday.

The cheque for \$6,250 was received from the Wodonga Council.

Mr. J. Waite and D. Gadd were appointed as 'community' members to the Stock Centre's Committee of Management.

It was decided to present Mr. B. Reuss with Life Membership.

The meeting of 3rd March reported gate takings of \$7044. However, it was felt the Show had suffered from the Festival of Sport at the same time. There had been only the same amount of money to be spread over the Festival and Show, but not more people.

In response to a request from Mrs. Betty McLean it was decided to alter the wording on the Members' Tickets from 'Ladies ticket' to 'Members guest'.
The bank statement showed a balance of \$11,542.

The meeting of 5th May conferred Life Membership on Mr. Ray Pollard.

Held on 3rd June, 1993 the AGM decided on several changes to its rules including that Life Membership be given only to those who had been a financial member of the Society for a continuous period of 25 years or a member who has made conspicuous meritorious service to the Society. The amendments to the Society's rules, were passed en bloc.

In his annual report, President, Peter Adams, said the past 12 months had been a time of re-organising and re-building. The first major item had been the division of the Showgrounds on terms acceptable to the Society and the Wodonga City Council. A final resolution of the matter took place with the signing of an agreement on 8th December 1992. Not having income from the Stud Stock Selling centre for the past 12 months had forced the Society to be financially responsible. The Society had two representatives on the Council's Committee of Management for the Centre. The Society could be proud of the fact that a voluntary organisation established and built the Centre to such a high client level.

Peter Adams was re-elected President, Neil Bottrell Vice-President, and a Committee of 11 elected.

On 4th November 1993, the title for portion of the Showgrounds was handed to the Wodonga City Council.

At the meeting of 2nd December, Ian Marshall tendered his resignation as Treasurer.

1994

The meeting of 3rd February appointed Mr. Kevin Tracey as Treasurer.

Gate takings for the Show were \$6,834. The Society's balance after the Show was \$6,287.

The need for a cash flow budget was discussed at the meeting of 3rd May - all sections have been asked to supply an income and expenditure budget to the Treasurer.

1994 AGM - The AGM on 2nd June re-elected Peter Adams, President and Neil Bottrell vice-President, and a Committee of 11. Membership was set at \$15.

The President, in his annual report, said the Society's relationship with the Wodonga City Council had been a cause for concern on several occasions throughout the year. He said the Society must work hard at keeping a healthy relationship without compromising the Society's independence or its ability to conduct a good show or to use the grounds to the best advantage.

Treasurer, K. Lacey reported an end of financial year balance of \$12,512.76 The amount includes cheque a/c, money on term deposit and passbook account.

On 6th October the Society told the Wodonga Council it was finding it difficult to plan for the 1995 Show because the Council had not approved the budget.

The last meeting of 1994 on 1st December decided to write to the Wodonga City Council and ask for clarification of reports in the Border Mail regarding possible privatisation of the Stud Stock Selling Centre.

1995

The meeting of 2nd February heard from Tony Plowman, Member for Benambra, that a Government grant of \$6,000 would be made available for major electrical work at the Showgrounds.

On 23rd March the Society was \$10,587 in credit.

President, Peter Adams, told the meeting of 6th April that the annual Show had been bigger and better than ever and a base for further improvement. Gate takings were \$25,000, compared to \$7,331 the previous year.

The 4th May meeting showed a profit of \$9,521 for the 1995 Show.

1995 AGM - Peter Adams was re-elected President, Neil Bottrell Vice President, Kevin Tracy, Treasurer and a committee of 11 comprising: R. Hempel, B. Prichard, L. Hogan, N. Forrest, T. Maher, T. Dare, M. Crowe, C. Stitz, M. Duras, J. McGrath and H. Grothe.

The President's report showed optimism for the future as the Society had regained credibility and respect within the community. Apart from the hard work of Committee members changing the date of the Show, a better working relationship with the Showman's guild, special attractions and a Sunday night Show had contributed to its success.

Annual membership was set at \$15.

On 9th September 1995, the name of the Stud Stock Selling Centre was changed to The Wodonga Exhibition Centre.

The meeting of 2nd November was told that Commissioner Des Kelly was keen to develop a lake which could be used to water the Showgrounds and the Racecourse and Recreation Reserve.

The last meeting for 1995 reported a credit balance of \$1,068. That meeting also adopted a two-day ticket for the show with members and family and single tickets in different colours, for easy distinction. Charges to be \$20 family and \$10 single ticket.

1996

The Society's Bank balance at 7th March was in credit \$4,560.

Bank balance at 1st May 1996 was \$13,340. Gate takings at the 1996 Show were \$19,156 and general sponsorship \$1600. Prize money paid out was \$8,464. The gross loss for the Show was \$1,699, after payments.

1996 AGM - Annual General Meeting on 6th June saw Peter Adams returned as President; Neil Bottrell, Vice-President; K. Tracey, Treasurer; T. Wright secretary and a Committee of 12: B. Prichard, R. Hempel, T. Dare, T. Darmody, T. Maher, H. Grothe, N. Forrest, L. Hogan, D. Furze, C. Stitz, A. Murtagh, R. Long. Annual membership was set at \$15.

During his annual address to the Society, President, Peter Adams, said the 1996 Show ran at a loss. Rising costs and fewer paying patrons meant the Society's cash reserves were depleted. He thanked Society members for their community service. He said the Committee elected for the 50th Show in 1997 had a task ahead of running an event worthy of the Society and, at the same time, keeping the bank balance on the right side of the ledger. A number of items needed to be addressed immediately:

- All sections of the Show must be self-supporting.
- The Society-owned block of land in Richardson Street must be sold to provide a working capital base to run future Shows.
- The admission prices for 1997 must be raised to \$1 a head.
- The 50th Anniversary must be promoted vigorously and full community support won for the staging of the 1997 Show.
- I believe we must pack our Show into a smaller time space, two nights and one day.
- We no longer subsidise users of space and Side Show operators for the cost of power.

- A vigorous campaign for sponsorship must be started immediately. He said the Society had to be efficient to survive.

He said a lot of good people and a lot of good Shows were packed into the last 49 years. We had a tradition in rural Australia of which country Shows are a part, that is very much worth working and fighting for.

The 5th June meeting accepted an offer from the Wodonga Council to move the Secretary's office (the Joe Stockdale building) to another site to enable the Race Club to construct a new toilet block.

The Race Course and Recreation Reserve would also be asked to give unlimited access to the centre of the racecourse. Discussion was also held on the sale of a block of land owned by the Show Society.

The next meeting on 4th July decided not to sell the block of land, although the Committee has sufficient authority to sell.

At the meeting of 5th September, 1996, the Treasurer reported that the Society's financial situation was grim, and it was decided to extend the bank overdraft.

That meeting also heard a report from President Peter Adams that a deputation consisting of Peter Adams, Charles Stitz and Kevin Tracey had been told by Wodonga's Commissioners that the agreement between the Society and the Council was not valid. The Commissioners would like to take over all the Society land and suggested that a way out for the Society was to sell the Showgrounds and in return the Rural City of Wodonga Council would fund the Show for 20 years.

A report on a telephone conversation between Peter Adams and Commissioner Des Kelly contained an informal offer to buy the Society's block of land for \$8,000 per annum over 3 years.

Discussion by the Society Committee included concern that the Show Society needs to pursue the conditions of its agreement with the Council and seek a meeting within 7 days.

It would also write to Commissioner Kelly stating the Society was unable to consider the sale of land until the Society resolved its funding problems with the Council; write to the City Council asking whether it proposed to honor the agreement, and arrange to meet with a local Member of Parliament to discuss the problem, sending a copy of the agreement to the Member of Parliament before the meeting.

The next meeting, on 3rd October heard the results of the meeting with the Member for Benambra, Mr. Tony Plowman, on the Society's financial problems with the Wodonga Council. Mr. Plowman suggested the Society re-negotiate the agreement and amalgamate with the Albury Show Society. A meeting with the Council was arranged for 7th October. Peter Adams said the Albury Show Society committee would consider amalgamation proposal.

A social function for Life Members of the Show Society, members and supporters was arranged for 17th November.

The 7th November 1996 meeting centred on the refusal of the Wodonga Council to honor the financial agreement with the Show Society. Discussions between Society President and Commissioners Des Kelly and Mike Hanson again indicated Council's advice that legally the agreement was not legally binding. The Commissioners proposed a new agreement be drawn up as follows:

- The Society's house-block of land be rezoned to public space, no building permit would be issued;
- The Society be paid \$36,000 either \$9,000 over 4 years or \$12,000 over 3 years;
- The Society to have the use of the Exhibition Centre three times a year, make more use of their land and raise charges for groups hiring the grounds;
- Prepare a business plan for Council;
- The new agreement to be phased out after 3 years;
- The Council desire the 1997 Show to go ahead.

General discussion on the proposal followed. The Society is not in a financial position to challenge the Council in Court. In view of the Council elections in March when Councillors would replace the Commissioners, would the proposed new agreement be binding. The Committee not pleased with the proposal but realises the society is not in a strong position to force Council to make a better offer.

The Society's legal, adviser, Charles Stitz, successfully moved the following response be sent to Council:

"The Wodonga Show Society requires a one-off grant of \$10,000 to conduct the 1997 Show - no money, no Show. We confirm that we negotiate in good faith with the Council concerning the future of the Show and relationships with Council and point out that it would be impossible to prepare a business plan before June."

On the 17th November, 1996, President, Peter Adams, launched the Gold Pass fund-raising scheme for the 50th anniversary of the Wodonga Show. He paid tribute to those who had worked, mostly in a voluntary capacity, to build up the Society and its assets to their present value and regard in the community.

He welcomed to the launch a number of Life Members and commended them for their continuing support.

Present at the launch also was Barry Blewett who had competed in the section for the boy riders under 7 years of age, at the first Show.

Mr. Adams called on Committeeman, Mr. Noel Forrest, to explain the Golden Pass scheme which would raise money from the community and business towards the 50th Show in 1997.

Mr. Forrest said a Gold Pass would cost the purchaser \$50 and give admission to 2 adults and children for the whole weekend and, for business the chance to win \$1,000 worth of subsidised advertising if the winner was a business house (donated by 2AY and the Border Mail) and a trip for 2 people for a flight to Sydney (donated by Hazelton Airlines) if the winner was an individual. The passes were on sale from the day of the announcement until the day of the Show.

On 21st November Westpac Bank refused a loan to the Society against a block of land by which means the Society had hoped to fund the 1997 Golden Show.

The last meeting for 1996, was held on 5th December, and the Wodonga Council repeated its statement that the previous agreement is no longer legal and offered the Society \$10,000 per year for 3 years. The Council said it had obtained legal opinion which was based on the principles of a commercial transaction.

"The Show Society believes the Council's attitude is not morally justifiable but the Society has not the financial resources to fight the case in Court." The Society was not happy about the offer of \$10,000 for 3 years and it was decided to hold a special general meeting of all members to discuss the offer and the future of the Society.

1997

A special general meeting was held on 9th January to consider the Council's offer to terminate the agreement upon payment to the Society of financial assistance to a limit of \$10,000 per year for three years and to consider the future of the Society. A summary of the events leading to the meeting was sent to members, including the Council's advice to the Society that it must be economically viable without assistance from the Council or go out of existence.

The Society meeting passed the following motions:

- i. Negotiations with the City of Wodonga are to continue in the belief that the agreement with the Council is legal and binding, and a letter prepared by W. J. Buckpitt be used to reply to the Council.
- ii. Noel Forrest was appointed as Publicity Officer for the campaign.
- iii. W. J. Buckpitt was appointed to act as the Society's Solicitor.

As it was clear negotiations with the Council were unlikely to be concluded before the 1997 Show in March, it was resolved that an immediate appeal be made to members of the Society to contribute loan funds in multiples of \$100 to raise \$10,000 to permit the 1997 Show to be held. If the appeal not be successful there would be no Show.

Another meeting on February the 6th 1997 discussed the Council's proposal for a new agreement and resolved to notify the Council that "all correspondence regarding the agreement should be referred to our legal adviser, Mr. Bill Buckpitt, who will reply in due course."

Footnote: (written in March 1997) The attempts of the Council to negate the contract came close to destroying the Show Society in 1996/97 for the Entertainment Centre which the Society had built and which had been its main source of income could only be used by it on Show Days. The old Wodonga City Council wanted the Stud Stock Show and Sales kept in Wodonga and the contract drawn up between the old Council and Society suited both parties.

The dismissal of all Victorian Councils by the Kennett Government and their replacement by Commissioners who had to introduce different methods of administering Council business, was the reason behind the desire of the Council to negate the agreement. It had gained from the Society a valuable asset in the buildings and another valuable asset in the land included in the contract. Under the Council's new instructions all its business

operations had to be exposed to Compulsory Competitive Tendering. What business would tender for a property which has a 50-year unknown monetary encumbrance?

A democratically elected City Council replaced the Commissioners in March 1997 and one of its responsibilities is the settling of the issue with the Society.

The Wodonga Show Society is prepared to fight its case in the Courts provided it can raise enough money to do so. It has gained legal opinion that encourages it to believe it can win its case. It believes it has kept its side of the contract but the Council has not.

Meanwhile, an editorial in the local paper "The Border Mail" on 27th January 1997 stated: "The Council's concerns are understandable but there are some things that are worth keeping even if there is a cost involved - the Wodonga. Show is one of them. The cost to the community does not appear to be great given that the Show brings visitors to Wodonga, showcases the region and brings the community together. The Show is just another example of volunteers working for the community. In that context balance sheets and economic austerity should not be the only consideration."

The preceding information was compiled in March 1997.

The treasurer's report as at 31st January 1997 recorded a credit balance of \$1353.22 which included receipt of loan funds to the value of \$3100. As at 6th February there were a number of accounts outstanding for payment and discussions were held as to which could be deferred, including half the secretary's honorarium.

The minutes of 27 February show permission had been granted by Wodonga Council and the Victorian Police to conduct a street parade.

A letter of resignation was received from K. Tracy. A letter was to be sent to him for his work as treasurer. D. Grace accepted the position of treasurer in a temporary capacity.

The motor bike stunt act was to be paid \$2000 plus two night accommodation and breakfast for four people. They would be performing at the Show at 3 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.

Allan & Karen Fabris to organise animal nursery and would like to call it "The Neil Bottrell Memorial Animal Nursery".

Rob Hall, a foundation member of the Society was to be presented with Life Membership at the Young Citizens Award judging on 13th March. Arrangements were to be made to drive A. G. Richardson and R. Hall in vintage cars in the street parade.

At the special meeting held on 17 March 97 quotes were received for fireworks, one at \$2750, and another at \$3000 which would include a "50 years" display. 'Dunklings The Jewellers' gave permission to their sponsorship of the Show in the advertising in the Border Mail.

The treasurer reported that all accounts for payment had been put "on hold" until after the show.

Mylons would provide a bus free of charge to transport the Scots School Pipe Band to Wodonga for the street parade. The bus driver was to be paid \$92 but Bob Prichard was to ask him to donate his time.

There was an election for Vice President with the nominee Bob Prichard going unopposed.

10th April meeting - Charlie Tankard was to be sent a letter of thanks for donating his time to drive the bus.

Correspondence tabled on that day included a letter from Wodonga City Council offering \$10,000 per year for 3 years with a proposed new agreement to be effective from 1999. It was moved and carried that Bill Buckpitt draft a letter rejecting the offer and to seek a meeting with the council. Bill Buckpitt was also to define his position as a legal advisor to the Wodonga Show Society, for matters relating to the Council. The Show Society does not want a conflict of interest to arise as Bill Buckpitt is now an elected councillor.

Another letter from the Mayor of Wodonga, G. Crapp, thanking the Show Society for their invitation to open the show and seeking an informal meeting to discuss the future direction of the Society and its current financial position. The meeting was agreed that a delegation to be chosen by the President.

Reports from the recent Show:

- Horse section, entries up and happy with the show.
- Friday evening show needs refining, more features, will take time for public to get used to Friday evening show.
- Sheep, wool, goats – very good exhibition, entries up in all sections.
- Animal Nursery – wonderful with a letter to be written to Allan and Karen Fabris.
- Site & Space – charged to be reviewed.
- Ladies Pavilion – power in Nell Wilson pavilion unsatisfactory, needs replacing.

A working bee was to be held to remove and cut dead trees from Peter Adams' property with wood to be sold as a fund raiser. That together with a Trivia night was considered sufficient funds to carry Wodonga Show Society through to 1998 show.

At the 1st May meeting resignations from Mesdames Boon, Whitla and Woolford were received, resigning from both the Show Society and the Ladies Auxiliary. The resignation of Thelma Wright at secretary effective from 9 June 1997 was also received.

Peter Adams and Bill Buckpitt were to meet with the Wodonga Council on 7th May to discuss the agreement and financial support. The secretary was to write to the Council regarding the loss of the street banner.

The AGM was held on 5th June 1997.

Election of office bearers:

President – Noel Forrest
 Vice President – Bob Prichard
 Secretary T. Wright resigned, new secretary not appointed
 Treasurer – D. Grace

Committee:

P. Adams
 T. Maher
 L. Hogan
 R. Long
 J. Hull
 H. Grothe
 R. Pollard
 A. Murtagh
 N. Padbury.

The setting of annual membership fees held over until completion of negotiations with the Wodonga Council.

R. Pollard asked the chairman when a secretary would be appointed and was told as funds were not available to pay a secretary and the matter would have to wait until after the meeting with the Wodonga Council.

In his report President Peter Adams said in part:

"The Society has been through difficult and negative negotiations with the former commissioners of the Wodonga City Council, and faced the task of presenting the 50th anniversary show with a debit bank balance.

Negotiations with council continue and our chances of a positive outcome appear far better now we have an elected council.

The need to present a show with out working capital was a daunting prospect, but the sale of gold passes at \$50 per pass, along with loan funds advanced from members, plus the pony club and show jumping club loaning funds enabled us to achieve our goal.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two clubs and the members who advanced funds. For the Society and people of Wodonga it was the difference between having a show and not having a show.

Many other people have been involved in supporting these fund raising ventures and I extend the Societies thanks to them also.

We have lost good members this year through death and resignation, these people have been part of the soul of the Wodonga Show Society, and their contribution over many years should not be forgotten or underestimated.

The late Neil Botrell in particular for his hard work, common sense, and good counsel, which I as president of this Society have had the benefit on many occasions. Our retiring secretary Thelma Wright has given five years of service to the Wodonga Show Society, on behalf of our members. I thank Thelma for those five years and wish her well for the future.

Volunteers and donors are a large part of what keeps a Show Society functioning. They have been a vital part of our past and are precious to our future. We thank you for your support in the past, and ask that you continue to support us in future years. The past five years as president of the Wodonga Shoe Society has been an honour. I have enjoyed it during those five years. I have received tremendous support and loyalty from the committee and members, and from a large percentage of the Community generally. I thank you all for that and wish my successor well for the task that lies ahead."

A planning meeting on 19th June was told that the Secretary/Administrator position was to be advertised with a closing date for applications being 2nd July.

On 17th July all committee persons present were presented with a copy of the Business Plan drawn up by Stirlings Accountants of Wodonga. It is very important that the Committee have more fund raising events in a year besides the Show to achieved a healthy financial situation prior to our Show and not be totally dependant on the annual show for cash flow. Ours strength is our organizing personnel – Membership is vital as we currently have only 40 financial members. With this in mind we will approach Mr. Paul Flood to deal solely with our membership payments with a view to increase the number of members 500%. We hope to make up a membership package which will include a member's facility at the show. Membership application forms to be posted out with renewal notices asking member to recommend at least three other persons for possible membership.

The appointment of a Secretary/Administrator should be finalised in the next few days, with interviews carried out.

Membership fees set at \$25 which will provide for the show 2 adult tickets or 1 adult ticket with two children's tickets. The package will provide facilities at the show for members.

On 7 August 1997 the name of Paul Clarke as secretary appears.

Damien Grace reported on a meeting with the Rural City of Wodonga Council. Damien reported our letter and budget created no problems. Council advised it could see no problems with the use of the Pavilion, free of charge for 25 years. It was agreed to go to council on the 13th of August 1997. Betty McLean advised that the council budget is now individually itemised. She requested permission to ask the next council meeting "Is there any provision in the council budget for the Wodonga Show Society".

A meeting was told that they were expecting to attract 215 people to the trivia night and on this basis it should be a success.

It is recommended the Society develop a five-year plan to book the third weekend in February each year with council to hold the show.

On 4 September 1997 it was moved that the recommended date for the show date booking be the third weekend in March not February as per the previous minutes.

The Treasurer reported that the trivia night netted \$2921.

It was agreed that the Pony club could use the secretary's office for a hire fee of \$100 per annum for meetings.

The compensation claim with Wodonga Council needs receipts to prove we have had a show. A rate of \$10,000 per year will be compensated by Wodonga Council. Should we not have a show for a period of 21 months the Showground will revert to Council. Society will have use of the shed for 4 weekends per year. Can rehire the shed if we have no use and are not in competition to the beef selling. The council will collect the camp fees but prefers us to collect all fees. The council wants to set up an overall structure of ground management i.e. including the Show Society, Turf club, other users and Council.

In the minutes of 2nd October Paul Clark was not happy with his future with the Show Society. It appears he was appointed some time after 17 July but not recorded in the minutes. Paul tendered his resignation. As the situation was somewhat urgent, a new person was appointed to the Secretary's role subject to ratification. A new service agreement has been drawn up by Charles Stitz – Society's solicitor. It was moved and carried that Anne Locke be appointed as Secretary of the Show Society.

The President was to continue to develop a newsletter to inform the community of goings on with the Society.

1998

At the next recorded meeting on 5 February 1998 it was agreed that Mike Cameron from 2AY would like to sell raffle tickets at the show all weekend for the Variety Club. In return he would advertise Wodonga Show on air every morning.

The next minutes on 2nd of April 1998 gives a report on the show in the previous month. Good turnout of cattle, approximately 100 head, much better than the last two years. Secretary would like to look at setting up a bond system for sites. Problem this year was that some of the sites had disappeared over Saturday night and did not return for Sunday which was not good for the public who had paid to enter the show and half the sites had gone. For the fruit and vegetables it was suggested that the judging should be on the Saturday due to fresh produce and flowers spoiling. The fireworks had been the worst display ever and Noel was to ring the company and complain bitterly of their professional conduct and to try to get the invoice cost down.

It was recorded that the Ladies (auxiliary) cheque-book should be under committee management same as the horse committee had handed over the reins to the general committee. Under incorporation rules there should be only one treasurer. The 14th of May 1998 Peter Adams informed the Committee that the Ladies Auxiliary are holding a special meeting concerning the money situation.

On 4 June 1998 treasurer reported approximately \$4500 "to kick-off from now". There was an \$800 profit made from a recent dinner.

There are to be two members nominated for life membership of the Show Society they are Peter Adams and Bob Prichard. VASA was to be contacted re the medals.

On 2 July 1998 a special general meeting was held after the Annual meeting (*minutes of the AGM not found*) to ratify a Licence Agreement between the Wodonga and District Pony Club and the Wodonga Show Society. The agreement was signed and sealed.

On 6 August 1998 Peter Adams and Bob Prichard received life membership. Noel thanked them for their hard work and the committee appreciated the continual effort to the support of the show. "It is a privilege to work with such dedicated workers."

Correspondence in at that meeting included Agreement with Council -- Signed and sealed. General business on that day included the need for restoration of the arena because elephants had made holes in it.

On 3 September 1998 there was continuing discussion about the water situation between the Council and Show Society. Jess Hull moved a motion that the users of the ground contribute financially ASAP. The treasurer reported a credit balance of \$8,311.19.

Syd Howard Fireworks was to be offered an arrangement of payment for the fireworks. \$1500 to be paid on agreement and on completion of the 1999 show, another \$1500 be paid on a satisfactory result.

It was agreed that the society investigate the feasibility of conducting a steam train package deal. It would include train ride, motel accommodation, meals and buses from Melbourne return. Fiona van der Weyde attend the meeting to discuss alternative therapies that will participate at next year's show. She envisages 30 stalls situated in the Bull Ring sales area of the Exhibition at complex. It was decided to book Perry Bros Circus for next year's show. Jess Hull was appointed the Financial Reporter until the

appointment of a Treasurer. Steve Callesen attend the meeting after being invited to discuss ways and means of using the Exhibition Centre. Steve stated use of the Centre in its present state would be difficult to fill as there is not a proper floor in the area. He suggested that the Committee investigate the idea of purchasing a drying conveyor belt from the paper mill. It could be laid down and carpet could be put down on top it would then become a viable proposition for lots of different venues, not only agricultural, as it is now.

At the meeting on 15 October 1998 it was recorded Syd Howard had accepted the society's proposal of payment for next year's show. Jess Hull reported that after all accounts are paid the cash book balance would be credit of \$5,371.35.

A member the Yackandandah Pistol Club attended the meeting to discuss the Portable Pistol range that they would run at the show in 1999. It is understood that they will notify the council and that all regulations and restrictions will be adhered to. They are trying to increase community awareness and membership. Secretary was to contact Showman's Guild requesting that they use their own generators to run the amusements at the next show. Peter Marshall from the council spoke on the future of the Show Grounds and that the Council has ideas of refurbishment and renovation of the grounds.

The theme for next year's show is yet to be decided.

The meeting on 5 November 1998 heard that the Ladies Auxiliary Schedule is out. The theme for the show next year was discussed and it was agreed that it would be "See It All".

Reference the train package -- 2000 letters will need to be posted out to various bodies. Cost to be \$495 twin share. The Carlton (motel) has been booked, along with buses and train. Discussions will be held with Wodonga TAFE re their catering for the weekend.

Recreation reserve had sent a wish list to the society for amendment and update lengthy discussions to be held later. Wodonga Junior Football club will have to shift the containers, or if they wish, they can pay \$300 for rental. Car parking at the show may be restricted as Mitchell College has plans for the area we normally use. Recreation Reserve may need to be approached for alternative parking when the show is on.

On 3 December 1998 decided by the Committee that the Duck man be hired at our next news show. Symphony Orchestra -- Committee should delve into a little deeper for entertainment at the dinner.

In regards to Political Stands it was suggested that the minutes of the meeting held 15 to 20 years ago be found so that the committee can rescind the motion that there was to be no politicians stands at the show.

It was suggested that the Midgets football club run the BBQ bar on Saturday in return for storing their container at the Showgrounds.

1999

The meeting on 14 January 1999 heard that Wodonga Show Society had been awarded the "Event of the Year 1998" by the City of Wodonga and the committee should be at the presentation on 26 January 1999.

As problems had arisen with organising the steam train from Melbourne the project was postponed until the year 2000 show. After rescinding the previous motion about political parties, the secretary was to canvas local politicians in regard to having a stand at the show.

Camping fees from users of the Showgrounds be looked at again to see if there is an easier way to collect monies from the campers that have booked through the Council.

On 4 February 1999 the secretary was to write to Council in regard to the water saga. We would like to pay only 15% not 20%. Jess reported that we can have a meter at a cost, North East Water is happy to do it at a cost of approximately \$3000-\$5000. Roy Hempel requires four to five tables for the fleeces. Alpacas would also like to have two tables for their fleeces.

On 4 March 1999 Peter Adams extended to a welcome to Barb Hallawell who is to assist the secretary and was confident that all would work together to carry out the many functions that the Committee has to do to have a successful show.

Decision made to reduce admission charges for the Sunday Family Day to \$10 per family. Several quotes had been received for a water meter. It was moved that the water charged will be the reading of the water meter installed. The financial report recorded a cash book balance after accounts were paid of \$5,978.55.

In June 1999 the Border and District Showjumping Club sent a cheque for \$1019.91 being a third of the costs incurred for isolating the water services at the Showgrounds.

On 7 October 1999 President advised that some financial arrangement be made with the Turf club with regard to the use of our ground and its use as a "public" car park on the race meets. Also it is to discuss the sign at the entrance of the Showground whereby they are claiming our land as a "Public Car Park", when in fact it isn't.

In October 1999 letters were sent out seeking corporate sponsorship offering naming rights of events, display of logos, acknowledgement of sponsorship in Show advertising in media and Show Program, a limited number of complimentary passes for the duration of the Show.

During 1999 there were extensive discussions about the requirement to use the Showman's Guild as opposed to having an "Open" Show. They had spoken to the Walbundrie Show Society who have had an Open Show for over 80 years.

The minutes of 2 December 1999 record that the Society is now a member of Investment Albury Wodonga.

Peter Lee the secretary went on to report " To those members of the Society not present at the Saturday evening meet of the recently held World Cup, how grateful thanks go Anne Locke who whilst carrying out social duties in the main marquee, heard the external cooler

room door seal open at approximately 3 a.m., and upon going outside, single-handedly apprehended a quite sober male person who had entered into said cooler room and removed for the purpose of self gratification an unopened 2 litre bottle of Bundaberg Rum and a 1 litre bottle of Jim Beam, with a retail value of approximately \$400. Many thanks Anne on behalf of all members of the Society. The totally reassured Anne, some chaps were really close behind you, it was just a case of finding and getting the First Aid box first, on the "just in case" scenario of you possibly getting hurt in the apprehension of that thief!!!"

2000

On 6 January 2000 was reported that the solicitor firm being used had advised that any further dealings with the Showman's Guild on behalf of the Wodonga Show Society would have to be charged at commercial rates for any work done. True to their word an invoice had been received charging for answering/making two telephone conversations \$75. Solicitor went on to advise that to date, the initial meeting, subsequent meetings, and drafting and sending letters to VASA and Showman's Guild already exceeded \$1000, for which they are not charging a fee. It would appear "on paper" that they are no longer interested in helping the Society in an honorary capacity.

A letter had been sent to the fireworks people regarding the 2000 Show and "free" display, for problems associated with 1998 Show. Their response ignored their negligence advising that because we had cancelled in 1999 because of the weather we voided the "deal". They would do a special deal for the 2000 Show providing a value of \$3000 and only charging \$2000.

The Treasurer reported a credit balance of \$5,840.04. The Treasury went on to remind the meeting that Wodonga Council agreed to pay up to \$450 in advertising for changes of the Show date because the Angus meet mix-up. The secretary was to place advertisements in weekly Times, EFA, Twin Cities Post, and Country Mail.

3 February 2000 inward correspondence included a letter from the solicitor admitting the letter they wrote may have been ambiguous and whilst the company would like to receive payment they could also write the matter off because of the ambiguity. The Society was still waiting for confirmation that Dr Harry would attend the Show.

On 7 February 2000 a meeting was held between the Showmen's Guild of Victoria and the Wodonga Show Society. It was noted that the meeting was "cordial and constructive".

The meeting on 2 March 2000 finalised show preparations confirming that Dr Harry would be in attendance. A water cart may be required to keep the dust down in front of the Pavilion, as the exhibits get very dusty. The Society had made a good profit when hosting the Woodcrafters Weekend.

On 6 April 2000 the President warmly welcomed everybody present; especially the turnout of the Ladies Auxiliary which he stated was particularly pleasing to see. The treasurer reported that the Society should make a small profit from the Show. There was to be an officer from the taxation office in attendance next month to advise upon GST matters, and that the Society should obtain an ABN registration for GST purposes.

Olive Chamings president of the Ladies Auxiliary reported that the ladies had manned the Secretary's office for two weeks prior to the Show. Exhibits were up on the previous year,

and this meant that there were savings to the Society of approximately \$120. The Pavilion schedule for the 2001 show should be out by July 2000, and it was agreed that the major part of the Fruit and Vegetables be included.

Len Hogan advised that the Hack was the best ever, with 89 horses competing in 3 rings. Peter Adams said he was pleased with the turnout of 57 "led" and 15 carcasses. Entries came as far afield as Cootamundra and Sydney. It was suggested that Peter should have assistance of a committee to help run the section and not have to do it all himself.

The President suggested that the time of grand parade should be put back to 3:45 p.m., thereby allowing time for all competitions to properly conclude.

On 4 May 2000 Ian McMullan was guest speaker from the Tax Office speaking on implications of the GST which will come into effect on July 1, 2000. Jess Hull has everything under control in regards to GST and we will be guided by her expertise.

An intense discussion was held amongst the committee on which approach they should take in relation to the development of the Showgrounds, proposed by the Recreation Racecourse Committee of Management.

On 1 June 2000 a handwritten note by the secretary says "a quiet month, obviously the lull before the storm!"

At the AGM on 6 July 2000 the President's report outlined a successful 2000 Wodonga Show and thanked all members of the Society for all the hard work and effort put in. He also thanked Uncle Ben's of Australia for their support and sponsorship of the 2000 Show and advise the meeting that it seems as though they will actively participate in the 2001 Show. The President also highlighted the success of having "rabbits" and "poultry" at the show, plus good radio and TV coverage.

The Independent Audit Report made recommendations that the society in future years shows on its balance sheet is a realistic value regarding Plant and Equipment, as otherwise it could be interpreted as a detriment to the Society. Further recommendations that where the Society actually "owns the land" and "structures" that they also be shown on the Balance Sheet, including money owing to the Society by Wodonga City Council.

The election of office bearers unopposed:

President: Noel Forest

Vice President: Anne Locke

Treasurer: Jess Hull

Secretary: (corporate): Wendy Hogan

Secretary: (honorarium): Peter Lee

Committee members -- Olive Chamings -- Mary Koehn -- Neil Padbury -- Peter Adams -- Ray Pollard -- Roy Hempel -- Len Hogan -- Ron Long -- Wendy Hogan.

On 4 August 2000 the resignation of Anne Locke as vice president was received. Peter Adams was nominated as the new vice president.

On 7 September 2000 the treasurer reported a dispute over the electricity account as it was found that the meter had been vandalised resulting in no off-peak readings being

made. The amount of the account in dispute was \$2500, payment not made seeking a resolution.

The Treasurer's report on 7 December 2000 shows an amount of \$769.74 being paid for the disputed electricity account. The electricity company had agreed to an estimate based on the previous year's usage.

2001

On 4 January 2001 the appointment of Mrs Jessie Hull to the position of Wodonga Show Society Secretary was ratified.

Len Hogan had done a costing of watering of the entire ground by reading the water meter before and after. He estimated a cost of \$135. Would be done each week during the dry summer period.

A website had been established at www.wodongashowozzweb.com.

In March 2001 safety issues were discussed by any WorkCover regulations and the need to doublecheck particularly the electrical leads and installations. There is a need for a book of procedures covering all WorkCover issues and also evacuation procedures. Visitor Bev Nesbitt offered to produce this for the next meeting. Noel Forrest has a water cart which could be used as a fire cart in case of a fire emergency until the fire brigade arrives.

The agenda for 19 April 2001 lists for discussion the effects of One City amalgamation (Albury & Wodonga) and that the Turf club is already discussing their future with Albury Racing Club. Each section was to provide a written summary of the recent show and thoughts on how they could increase public participation in 2002 such as pavilions providing demonstrations throughout the show as provided by the Woodcrafters Section.

On 7 June 2001 budget for the next show was discussed and that current expenses i.e. advertising as a percentage of the gate takings was far too high. Catering profits were down due to lack of customers. It was suggested that patrons do not come for the whole day any more, attending after lunch or the morning, so meals are not patronised except for judging requirements. There was a need to look at the number of free passes issued and also the gatekeepers letting friends and others through the gate without charge. A payment of \$600 was authorised to the Masonic Lodge for the gate keeping duties at the recent show.

The Treasurer's report on 5 July 2001 recorded another dispute over the electricity account which has now been resolved.

At the AGM on 5 July 2001 the president reported that the past 12 months had been a difficult stage for the Wodonga Show Society. The proposed development of the Recreation Reserve and the adjacent grounds has not proceeded as planned and advertised by Council of Wodonga. Promise of sponsorship by UBA did not occur. The big attraction that took an enormous amount of time i.e. Kidsafe turned out not to be an attraction for country people. The police display was popular particularly the helicopter arrival. Financially the 2001 Show was disappointing, which proves the right attraction is a must. Weather was good, and the media coverage was increased considerably. I would

recommend that the Committee look at reducing the timeframe for the show into Friday night and Saturday only. Try to get the numbers through the gates within that time and reduce our costs. Sunday was extremely quiet except for the Horse Section and it was still going to pack up time.

The Auditor's report and Management report was tabled. The Management report was to the point and factual, requesting that Committee to have a hard look at its future and financial viability as considerable loss occurred within the 2001 Show. Land and Buildings must be valued and entered into the records of the Society. Plant and equipment and stock-take to be also brought up to date and accounted for in the records.

Election of office bearers:

President Noel Forrest

Vice President Peter Adams

Secretary -- in the absence of a nomination for this position Mrs Anne Locke was nominated to continuing this position.

Committee of management:

Amanda Waite

Mary Koehn

Barbara Morris

Sonia Humphris

Len Hogan

Roy Hempel

Olive Chamings

Wendy Hogan

Peter Lock

Neil Padbury

Ron Long

Membership fees for 2001/02 will remain at \$20. Entry fees to show for 2000; Family tickets \$14, Adult \$8, Child \$4, Seniors Card \$5. The date of 2002 show was set to commence 4 p.m. on Friday the 22nd of March and continue until 9:30 p.m. Saturday evening with no official Sunday activity. The theme for the 2002 show yet to be decided.

On 2 August 2001 the secretary requested all details of the website to keep the site up-to-date. Do not need sponsors listed on site, unless they wish to pay for the privilege.

On 18 October 2001 a letter of resignation was received from Mr Bill Larsen.

The meeting on 1 November 2001 was held at the Blazing Stump meeting room due to there being no power available at the Showgrounds.

On 13 December 2001 quota had been received from Robinson's Circus \$4500 plus GST and was accepted in writing. Advised that no helicopter would be available for the next show. It was suggested that there be an Easter theme for the 2002 show.

The 13 December 2001 meeting heard a report from the workshop conducted by the VASA in Melbourne on 6 December 2001. Case studies were presented on eight show societies which were visited and analysed in-depth. One society had increased the gate takings by 38% by hiring two men in uniform at a cost of \$120 each per day. It was stressed that there was a need for a succession plan for committee members. No

organisation has a future without young people. Show committees should open up to change and embrace it.

2002

On 3 January 2002 it was reported that insurance premiums due to AON Risk management would be based on gate takings and estimated value of buildings and would amount to \$3806 for the 12 months. There was also a different affiliation system between the Show Societies and VASA. The fee to be based on gate takings and would be \$950 for the next year. With these increases amounting to 68.82% over last year's insurance and affiliation fees we need to reassess our financial position for the next show. The executive have taken the action to increase the Show entry fee by \$1 across the board. As some schedules had already been printed exhibitors entry fees could not be raised and everything else must be increased immediately. It was agreed that perhaps a levy be placed on each exhibitor's entry. Ron Long queried why he had found the Bob Prichard arena unlocked on three or four occasions and the secretary noted that the system of the locking device did not line up correctly. After Gerry Hull used his hammer a couple of times, the offending problem was solved.

A special show meeting was held on 25 February 2002 to discuss show preparations and format. The secretary suggested that Mrs Jean Whitla, Wodonga Citizen of the Year, be asked to open the show. Advice received that Ray Pollard was unwell and would not be able to do the Fruit and Vegetables.

At the meeting on 25 April 2002 sections gave their reports on the recent show:

Horses -- Mr Len Hogan -- reasonably successful horse section this year. Hack numbers were up as was the showjumping.

Cattle -- Mr Peter Adams -- pleased with the numbers given that the Sydney Royal was on at the same time. We had 30 head instead of the usual 50.

Poultry -- report not available however comments from committee said it was beautifully done with many different variety of birds. Wonderful exhibition.

Ladies Pavilions -- Olive Chamings -- entries were down considerably this year particularly the **Horticulture and Fruit and Vegetables**. Even so reports and feedback indicate that the Wodonga show is far better than most of the other local shows.

Animal nursery -- no official report but all thought this was an excellent feature.

Wodonga Brass Band -- cancelled due to insufficient players available.

Alpacas -- an excellent show and well attended both by exhibitors and general public.

Wood chop -- Barry Kettle advised the secretary that he was disappointed that there was no crowd at the woodchop at all.

Wool section -- Mr Roy Hempel -- first-class Merino fleece exhibition. Entries were good and overall it was a top show very pleased with how it went.

Five new membership applications were tabled as a result of the promotion during the show.

Keith and Penelope Sutherland.

Heather Ward.

David Hales.

Pamela Roth.

Secretary to write a letter of welcome to all new members.

Report from the City of Wodonga proposed development. The Committee after discussion agreed that the Show Society's contribution to the proposal was immense in terms of loss of land use and control over our property. Pony club are not happy about the changes to their Clubrooms. The new proposal gives them just another equipment shed. Totally different to a straightforward relocating of the club rooms. It was decided that a subcommittee be formed to discuss the Showgrounds development and to formulate our future requirements and required timetable changes.

The AGM was held on 6 June 2002 election of office bearers as follows:

President	Peter Adams
Vice President	Peter Lock
Official Secretary	Annette Forrest
Treasurer	no nominations received, Jess Jull to continue handling the Treasurer's role

Membership fees to remain at \$20 - entry fees for 2003 show - family tickets - 2 adults and three children \$18, one adult \$9, Child 5 to 16 years \$5, aged pensioners \$6.

VASA reported that Wodonga show is listed to have a visit from the WorkCover Melbourne officials in 2003.

On 4 July 2002 Peter Adams advised the meeting that he had received an offer from Steve Paull of Paull & Scollard to try to arrange a Young Auctioneers Competition in conjunction with the 2003 show. "We will need to also run at carcass competition and this will mean a good standard of cattle will be required to facilitate these events. These Young auctioneers go on to the Sydney Royal after competing here for the Nationals and from there I believe onto Canada."

The annual financial statement which had not been available at the AGM, due to the absence of the auditor, was tabled. In the management report it was recorded that the financial position had improved, due to the ongoing efforts and unpaid labour of a small number of dedicated volunteers.

On 1 August 2002 Mr John Brader was welcomed as a new member. Peter Adams advised the meeting that the Beef Carcass Competition will be held at the next show. Wood cutting had raised \$700 so far and the next fundraiser will be a car boot sale.

On 5 September 2002 Peter Adams advised the meeting he was disappointed with the car boot sale attendances. The Treasurer advised a return of \$467.15 from gate, sites and sales. Given the results the President still thought the attendance was poor, but would be worth having another try at this project at a later time. A meeting had been held concerning Young Auctioneers for the 2003 show. Due to some foreseeable difficulties, it has been decided that the Carcass competition was not viable, a Live Steer Competition will be held with a Wine and Cheese gathering on Friday evening followed by the Auction by the Young Auctioneers on the Saturday.

Of 7 November 2002 Mr Doug McGrath was welcomed as a new member. Show Society logo was discussed and the secretary was to investigate the pricing and legal aspect of having our own logo.

On 5 December 2002 Colour Copy Centre requested the original drawing of the logo but they were unable to use it so the cost to reproduce has risen.

2003

On 2 January 2003 the logo was to be ready the following week and would be on disk and able to be used for multiple purposes. Industrial Site Applications had been drafted and were tabled for approval; sites sizes to be a minimum of 12 metres by 10 metres. It was suggested that a maximum of 10 sites be made available, all in the front gate area "Limited site numbers" be stated on application forms.

1 May 2003 president Peter Adams reported an excellent Show for 2003. Funds raised for CFA Baranduda \$1300 and the Prime Steer Fund Raiser for the Wodonga Hospital raised \$1750. The Prime Steer and Young Auctioneers Section went very well indeed for its first year.

At the AGM on 5 June 2003 the President's report in part stated:

"A successful Show needs something new and something different each year to add to the traditional Show programme. We were very fortunate to be offered the Young Auctioneers competition by the Albury Wodonga Stock Agents Association. We accepted the offer and introduced the Prime Steer competition to provide cattle for the young Young Auctioneers to sell. Doug McGrath agreed to come on to the committee to manage this section for the society.

Having fireworks back on the programme was a great boost for our Saturday evening show. They were not just fireworks, they were the best display yet at Wodonga show and they were the VISY Fireworks, these were proudly sponsored for us by the Visy Board Wodonga .

The Wool Section in the exhibition Centre was a first-class display. The Chief steward in the wool section Mr Roy Hempel is without a doubt our most senior member with something like 50 years of service to the Wodonga Show Society. Congratulations Roy.

After a long absence, trade exhibits made a welcome return to the Wodonga show in 2003. This very welcome return was due to the hard work and persistence of Doug McGrath.

Our Friday night show was to say the least, unsuccessful. If we intend to continue with a Friday night show it must be completely reorganised.

The Albury Wodonga Woodcrafters exhibited and demonstrated at this years show as they have for several years past. We valued their contribution. Tonight's meeting sees an application from the Woodcrafters to build clubrooms on the Wodonga Showgrounds."

The election of office bearers:

President	Peter Adams
Vice President	Peter Locke
Official Secretary	Annette Forrest

Treasurer

John Brader

Committee of management:

Olive Chamings -- Noel Forrest -- Roy Hempel -- Len Hogan -- Sonia Humphris -- Mary Koehn -- Ron Long -- Doug McGrath -- Sharon Pearl -- Bill Sargood -- Keith Sutherland -- Penelope Sutherland.

It was agreed that the Woodcrafters Group could erect their Clubrooms on Society land. Membership fees and show entry fees remained unchanged.

On 3 July 2003 it was decided that the 2004 show be known as the 'Wodonga Agricultural and Motor Show'. This further decided that it would be a one-day show, Saturday only.

On 7 August 2003 it was reported that white ants had been found in the Pony Club rooms. The ants were found in the Yellow Box tree between the two buildings.

A meeting had been held with the City of Wodonga in which an offer was made to erect a temporary secretary's office if we would permit our existing office to be demolished. The Show Secretary later advised that the Council had already published notice calling for tenders for the demolition of five sheds and their removal from the site.

A special meeting was held on 13 August 2003 to report on the meeting with the Council which had been held on the Showgrounds to give them a better understanding of our requirements. The pavilion glass cases and other display cases were discussed as was storage.

The stock trough currently located at the rear of the stallion shed should be on display in an appropriate place as it is an item of historical value. A letter to be written to the Council requesting that this item be retained on the grounds for historical reasons and sited appropriately.

On 4 September 2003 it was noted that working bees had been held over the past month because all sheds must be cleared by 6 September. Mrs Barbara Morris made comment regarding the Nell Wilson Pavilion being demolished next week and reminding people that Nell Wilson was the first Secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary. This building has significant historical value to the community and should contact be made the Border Mail to have a report on its demise. *Note: Border Mail contacted and an article was to be published the following Tuesday.*

The president reported that stage one of the grounds development was to be finished by December 2003. It was moved that the Society resists the demolition of the Society's Secretary Office until the Multipurpose Pavilion is completed and until any arrangements are satisfactory to the Wodonga Show Society.

Volunteers were called for, to man the gates at the Rutherglen Show. This has been a regular fund raiser for the Wodonga Show Society.

There was a letter received from City of Wodonga confirming the offer by Council and proposal by Council to erect a storage shed 8 m by 6 m by 2.7 m on Society land in Richardson Street, at their cost, the shed to become Society property on completion. Shed to not to be used for animals but storage. This together with the Equipment shed satisfies the Council's obligations regarding storage under the current agreement.

There was a request to draft a Licence to Use for Wodonga Midgets Auskick-Container. Conditions that the container MUST be painted to blend in with the equipment shed. \$50 per year for five years with option.

On 2 October 2003 minutes record a meeting had been held the previous month with City of Wodonga when it had been agreed that the names of J. J. Forde and Nell Wilson be displayed initially on the new Display Pavilion and eventually displayed on individual buildings.

On 6 November 2003 the minutes show that eight workers had attended the Rutherglen show and a cheque for \$500 was received.

2004

On 2 January 2004 it was agreed that as the Wodonga Pony Club and Border District Jumping Club had put a lot of time and money into the development of the Prichard Arena, this would not be used if it was wet on Show day to avoid damage to the surface. There was discussion on the use of this arena for general parking by the Wodonga Turf club as a car park. It was agreed that the Prichard arena NOT be available for general car parking. On 5 February 2004 Mary Koehn reported that a new date (the third one), now 1st March, was given for the completion and handover of the Pavilion.

At the meeting on 4 March 2004 it was reported that there was to be a council official opening of the Nell Wilson Pavilion at 11 a.m. on the 19th of March.

(Editor's note: This coincides with judging day for the show in the ladies Pavilion).

On 1 April 2004 Joe Hofer reported on the Alpaca Section of the show. "We had 124 animals with fleece entries double to last year. Exhibitors expressed that they were very happy with the Show and will be willing to attend again in 2005. We had VIPs in attendance and good support from the NSW Alpaca Group. I'd like to express our thanks to your secretary for help and assistance along with other members of your Committee. The show gave us an opportunity to promote the animals, as well as products i.e. wool and clothing."

President Peter Adams said "I believe, ladies and gentlemen, the 2004 was a good Show. Attendances were only fair, but what do we do? The Truck Expo was fantastic and it filled the Bob Prichard Arena. The Young Auctioneers competition went very well with good reports. Prime Steer competition will need some changes made to the administration but it was also good. The Nell Wilson Pavilion was an outstanding venue and a very good display."

Peter went on to express his disappointment that there had not been one word of coverage for the show in the local Border Mail.

Doug McGrath reported on the Prime Steer Competition saying 14 exhibitors and 55 steers had attended. Doug also reported that the Young Auctioneers was also very good with nine finalists. The selling platform is not appropriate and steps have been taken to correct the problem. The prime steer auctioned for the hospital, donated by the agents and purchased by the Commercial Club, netted \$1250.

Barbara Morris reported on the ladies Pavilion. Very happy with the new Pavilion. Entry numbers were down but painting numbers were about double. The Pavilion is an excellent

asset. We would like a picture rail in place for the next show to accommodate more paintings.

There was a motion to change the meeting day from the first Thursday of each month to the first Wednesday of each month, this was carried.

On 6 May 2004 the death of "friend, life member and colleague" Roy Hempel was noted. Doug McGrath was nominated to take Roy's place on the Recreation Reserve Committee. There was lengthy discussion on the council's pressure to demolish the secretary's office. It was noted that the office remain in situ until we have signed off on the agreement.

At the meeting held 2 June 2004 a request was tabled from Peter Adams that no action on the removal of buildings to be taken during his absence overseas.

Concerns were expressed re the Young Auctioneers that the Sydney show was one week after ours in 2005 and this would affect the ability for us to hold the Young Auctioneers State finals as there was insufficient time between our show and Sydney Royal. Steve Paull is willing to have the State finals in Wodonga but not on 19 March 2005.

The AGM was held on 7 July 2004.

In his report President Peter Adams said in part:

"Show attendances continue to be disappointing. The 2004 Show saw us focus on a one-day show for the first time in a number of years. Whilst gate takings were up marginally so were costs, leaving us approximately \$3000 behind where we started from.

Towards the end of 2003, Wodonga show Society lost its longest serving active life member, Mr Roy Hempel. Roy's contribution of loyalty and dedication and hard work stretched back over the nearly 50 years. This contribution has equaled by very few in any organisation and is an inspiration to all who worked with him. Roy's Section had always been the Wool Section. Bob and Greg Prichard offered to take over this section and did a great job with the best display of fleeces to be seen in the region in recent years.

The Alpacas Section continues to grow with approximately 120 entries in 2004. This section is well organised and well worth a visit by show patrons to see the animals and the alpaca products.

The job of keeping a Show Society operating in Wodonga gets no easier as the years go by. I believe we can no longer bend to pressure from the Council and the Turf Club. I believe it is paramount that before any more changes take place, the rules of operation have to be spelt out and put into a decent agreement. The so-called new Pony Club building/office must not be a bait to take us further into debt and reduce our ground ownership."

The election of office bearers:

President	Peter Adams
Vice President	Doug McGrath
Official Secretary	secretary to speak to Annette Forrest a on her return
Treasurer	discussion took place on the role of Treasurer, position not filled at AGM

Committee of Management:

Olive Chamings -- Len Hogan -- Mary Koehn -- Barbara Morris -- John Brader -- Ron Long -- Bills Sargood -- Penny Sutherland -- Noel Forrest -- Peter Ruaro and Peter Hollman were nominated subject to processing of member applications at the next meeting.

Membership fees were to remain at \$20. Show entry for 2005 - Family ticket --(2 adults and 3 children) \$20 - 1 adult \$10 - children 5 to 16 years \$5 - aged pensioners \$5.

At a Special meeting on 14 July 2004 two new members were welcomed Mr Peter Ruaro and Mr Peter Hollman.

President Peter Adams gave a brief address to the Committee on the history and issues involved with the removal of the Secretary's Office. He advised that there is either one large issue or three smaller ones. He gave a brief summary of the exchange about 10

years ago of property and the agreement history between the City of Wodonga Council and our Society. Road access by others, property retention and the Society getting value for money as a property owner, i.e. Turf Club gets free parking, as do the Cattle Shows and any other function but the Show Society must pay for any thing/facility used.. Also needed to discuss is the issue of the City of Wodonga's sudden expectation of an exchange of 25 metres of eastern boundary land for the privilege of having a new building provided on Show Society land. This building had originally been promised without strings attached and promised that NO Society land would be traded. It was agreed that the Show Society not sign any contractual agreements with City of Wodonga Council which allows the removal of Wodonga Show Society's buildings, handing over of any land titles for the purpose of building a road and/or relinquishing ownership of land presently owned by Wodonga Show Society.

On 3 November 2004 committee adopted the title "Wodonga 2005 Rural Community Expo and Multicultural Festival" for the 2005 show.

The Wodonga show Society land subcommittee agreed that after inspection and measuring the area that the parcel at the southern end (i.e. 50 x 20 m, is excessive and that an area of 50 x 16 metres would achieve the aim of placing a roadway in that area. It was expressed that every effort should be made to save, at all costs, the Yellow Box tree which currently stands between the Society's secretary's office and the Pony Club rooms. This along with fencing, toilet block, use of the Exhibition Centre and other matters were to be discussed with city of Wodonga on 18th November.

Notes on the meeting held with the City of Wodonga said that Council was agreeable to the proposed 11 m roadway down the eastern boundary. Need perhaps to alter the angle of the roadway at the northern end of roadway for smooth access. Not all other points were resolved to the satisfaction of the Society. Peter Adams had advised the Council that any new agreement to be signed, sealed and delivered to the Society members' satisfaction before any demolition, construction or roadways were commenced.

On 15 December 2004 Peter Adams thanked Jess Hull for the work she had done as secretary and treasurer. The Treasurer duties from then on would to be undertaken by Donna Reardon. A panel had been formed to interview five applicants for the secretary position.

There was to be a Stockmen's Day and reunion combined with Young Auctioneers and Prime Steer to be held on 5 March ahead of the next show.

2005

By the meeting on 2 February 2005 Kathleen Sutherland had been appointed as secretary. President Peter Adams reported that there had been weekly meetings on a Tuesday afternoon attended by himself and Peter Hollman, Kathleen Sutherland, Donna Reardon and others. These meetings had proved to be valuable as matters have been dealt with every week and therefore can be sorted out prior to monthly meetings. The Council had been in touch by phone in relation to tearing down the Pollard Archway. They would like to know the show Society's view. After discussion it was agreed that they should be asked to put any such request in writing.

Doug McGrath said that they are looking at having 90 prime steers unlike the 45 they had in previous years. Steers will be fat scanned for the first time.

The committee was having some problems getting in touch with the Webmaster as the webpage needed fixing and updating. The National Bank has made an offer that they want to be involved with the next show.

An advertising budget and ideas were discussed for radio, flyers, television, newspapers and schools.

On 2 March 2005 Peter Adams reported that the Border Mail had taken publicity pictures for the show including utes and trucks. Arrangements for the Prime Steer Competition on the following weekend were progressing well. Sponsorship money was coming in with about \$1600 for the wood chop and some horse feed from Masterfoods, although it was noted that Masterfoods cannot provide pigeon food so 2 X 25 kg bags would have to be purchased. Two quotes have been received for security at the show. The cheapest quote to be accepted, they have agreed they will man the gates, escort the ladies with money and also act as crowd control. The MC for the day has been organised through Albury Sound and Lighting. There was to be a show schedule handed out as people come through the gates. Flyers would be sent to schools detailing events at the show. Radio interviews and newspapers are getting involved.

Not sure how many entries we will get this year due to the Sydney Royal Show. We need a judging ring that meets OH & S requirements.

The Council was still making approaches about taking down the Pollard Archway.

There were to be 7 schools involved in the School Choir Competition.

On 5 March 2005 Wodonga Stockman's Day was held in the Wodonga Showgrounds. The poster says "Everyone associated with the Wodonga Saleyards over the past 70 years is invited to attend this special celebration. Come along and joined old friends and colleagues for a day of fellowship, conviviality and great memories.

The program reads:

9 a.m.: Prime Steer Competition -- Wodonga Show Society

1 p.m.: Victorian Young Auctioneers Championship -- Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association

4 p.m.: Wodonga Saleyards Reunion -- BBQ and entertainment provided

Support attractions include Wodonga Historical Society photographic display and rural industry exhibits. Proudly brought to you by City of Wodonga, Albury-Wodonga Stock & Station Agents, Wodonga Show Society.

On 6 April 2005 President Peter Adams welcomed Joe Hofer (Alpaca) and Uta Wiltshire (potential new webmaster) to the meeting. It was indicated the alpaca had played a large and valued part in the show and hoped Joe Hofer would join the committee. Preparation for next year's show -- schedules by 30 June 05 for inclusion on the website. Peter Hollman is to follow up with current Webmaster and looking into potential of new Webmaster if needed. A letter of resignation was received from Kathleen Sutherland.

A 2004/2005 audit report was completed for the year ended 30 April 2005 by Alan Boyd and associates of Berwick, Victoria. The management report read:

"By all reports, it appears that Wodonga show Society ran a very successful Show in 2005. The show offered its traditional agriculture events and displays whilst taking an innovative approach and including the Multicultural Festival.

The committee's ability to collect sponsorship and obtain grants has resulted in a profitable Show for 2005 however small and in turn posted a small profit for the year.

The Wodonga show Society's financial future is still dependent on you, the committee, and your ability to generate non-show fund raising activities throughout the year. The ongoing challenge the Wodonga Show Society faces, (along with other agriculture societies) is to continue to conduct its annual show and still remain viable.

The annual sponsorship from the Wodonga City Council will play an important part of the Society's ability to continue to post a profit for the upcoming year given the financial impact the Commonwealth Games will have on the community.

The committee's effort and its willingness to take on the non-show fund raising activities and undertake a new and innovative approach to attract sufficient patrons to the annual show will be evident in the financial figures of 2005/ 2006".

Notes to the balance sheet:

"Assets -- The Wodonga Show Society Inc has not kept an official record of the historical cost of the grounds, known as Wodonga Showgrounds. The grounds consist of Land, Buildings and contents as listed below.

The Wodonga show Society holds title to the following property:--

Land -- Situated at lot 2 Section 5 Parish of Wodonga County of Bogong known as Lot 2 Wilson St Wodonga, also One (1) house lot situated at Lot 4 Richardson St Wodonga. Both these properties have been zoned as "Open Space" by the City of Wodonga. Neither of these properties is rateable due to their Council Zoning. It is therefore legally difficult to place a commercial value on the land for accounting purposes.

The buildings being Secretary's Office, Luncheon Pavilion, Equipment Shed, and Storage Shed (erected 2004) were at an insured value of \$160,000 with the contents being insured for \$46,000.

On 4 May 2005 Uta Wiltshire was accepted as a member of the Wodonga Show Society. Correspondence in included a draft agreement with the Wodonga City Council.

At the AGM on 1 June 2005 the following office bearers were elected:

President	Peter Adams
Vice President	Doug McGrath
Secretary	Peter Hollman
Treasurer	Donna Reardon

Committee of Management: Peter Ruaro, Ron Long, Bill Sargood, Olive Chamings, Mary Koehn, Barbara Morris, Sharyn Pearl, Judy Williams, Joe Hofer, Noel Forrest, Len Hogan, Uta Wiltshire, John Brader. John Brader was appointed as the Public Officer.

There was a report on the Agreement with Council. The amendments as presented to be forwarded to the City of Wodonga Council for inclusion in the agreement currently under negotiation.

The Constitution and Rules were to be reviewed over a 12 month period at each of the committee meetings and any amendments to be presented next year's Annual General meeting. Noel Forrest provided some discussion with regards to the intent to increase committee size.

On 6 July 2005 Ron Cassidy, Rachael Bannerman were accepted as members of the Wodonga Show Society. Charges for Trade Sites at 2006 Show were agreed, \$30 for non-powered site, \$35 for powered site, and \$10 insurance contribution. The Alpaca Section was to manage their own applications for space and report requirements to Secretary. There was a sub-committee formed to plan the 2006 Show and they were to report progress at each ordinary meeting. Members nominated, Doug McGrath, Peter Hollman, Ron Long and Donna Reardon.

At the meeting on 3 August 2005 there was some discussion about selling the Richardson Street block. Due to the financial situation and in the interest to the longevity of the Society it may be the best option. Further investigations were to be made into zone restrictions currently on the block.

There was discussion about holding a fundraising function prior to Christmas; the sub-committee was to look into a theme.

On 13 October 2005 Peter Adams reported that he had attended the official opening of the Woodcrafters building on 12 Sep and that Tony Plowman and Mayor Lisa Mahood were in attendance. It was agreed that the fundraising function would not be held on 28 January 2006.

On 7 December 2005 Peter Adams reported that the Visy sponsorship of \$5000 had been confirmed.

2006

On 4 January 2006 it was reported that a meeting had been held with Wodonga City Council and the Council was presented with the Show Society stance on the new agreement.

At the meeting on 1 February 2006 there were discussions to arrange a new web site with the Show Society having its own domain name. An extension of three months was to be sought on the then current website.

The President thanked helpers and supported for the success of the Summer Dinner which raised in excess of \$2000.

The AGM was held on 7 June 2006. The Management Report attached to the audit for the year ending 30 April 2006 said in part, "The committee members continued support, effort and willingness to work together in the next financial year will set the foundations for the future. The strong financial ability of the Wodonga Show Society to be able to fund the

construction of new buildings and still run a successful show from its own cash reserves suggests a new approach and direction. Once again the ongoing challenge the Wodonga Show Society faces is to continue to conduct its annual show and still remain viable."

The President in his report said,

"It is with pleasure that I present the 2006 Wodonga Show Society President's report. The past year has been a successful year for the Society, that success has not come easily. A dedicated committee has worked extremely hard to produce first-class results in the various undertakings of the Society during the past year. The annual show held this year on the 18th of March was a compact and successful show. Because of a difference with our neighbours we confine as much of our show as possible to our own grounds. Attendance at the show by the public was disappointing; being a slight decline on the previous year. While the annual show is our principal production for the year Wodonga Show Society is not a one day a year organisation. A certain amount of fund-raising is necessary to keep the organisation running. Last year, as we have for a number of years past, we manned the gates at the Rutherglen Show. We also catered for the Border Mail Christmas party. In January we again had a Summer Dinner and Auction which was a financial and social success. During the past year with the aid of the government grant and our own resources we managed to build a new poultry Pavilion. During the past year the practice of charging for parking on the Showgrounds has been established. I believe this to be a step forward and we must continue to manage this revenue stream properly. Situation relating to our relationship with Wodonga City Council is still unclear and ever changing talks between council and ourselves have been going on during the last year. We now have an offer from Council to purchase our land, this was their idea not our request. I believe we are at a critical stage in our dealing with council and our ongoing development as a Show Society with a future. The right decisions need to be made by the incoming committee to ensure that the Wodonga Show Society continues to serve the people of Wodonga and district in future years..... We are fortunate to have a strong ladies committee is part of our show organisation and I thank them for their loyalty and hard work over many years."

On 5 July 2006 Wodonga City Council was granted approval for use of the Showgrounds for the Children's Fair on 15 October on the condition that any damage to the arena be made good. A letter was to be sent to the council outlining the fees. There was to be a working bee to clean out the Poultry Pavilion and spread crusher dust and scoria also to put in a spoon drain. Posts and pine rails were to be placed to protect the end of the Pavilion. Concrete flooring would have to wait for finances to be in a better state. When someone said the 'Chook Shed' had to be done by August it was pointed out that the structure is to be called the 'Poultry Pavilion'.

The secretarial duties were discussed with a request for a committee person to take them on. It could be broken down into sections and shared.

There was discussion and agreement on creating a new website for the Society. (*This was up and running by 14 July 2006 at www.wodongashow.org.au.)*

It was agreed that the next show would have the title 'Wodonga Annual Show 2007 Diamond Anniversary'. As it was St Patrick's Day an Irish theme was to be incorporated.

The Wodonga Historical Society was to be contacted with regard to an historic display at the Show for the 60 year celebration.

On 2nd August 2006 it was reported that the Historical Society is willing to put on a display at the show. A History of the Wodonga Show Society book is to be produced by reformatting and updating the one produced for the 50th anniversary. A PowerPoint presentation could also be set up.

Doug Hayman from the Woodcrafters Group was nominated to become a member of the Show Society. Doug said that if they had the space the woodworkers could run a competition at the show next year.

It was suggested that one form of advertising could be done in the Neighbourhood Watch newsletters going to all homes in Wodonga.

On 6 September 2006 the cost of trade sites was agreed to, 3 m by 3 m will be \$30 for an unpowered site and \$40 with power.

A multicultural grant had been applied for from the Victorian government.

It was decided that the children's colouring competition with a questionnaire might generate some interest in the show.

Jacque Garnier wishes to set up a Wine Club to run a winemaking course with the aim to have a wine show at next year's show. He would like to use the secretary's office over a period four weeks.

On 4 October 2006 eight people from the committee volunteered to man the gates of the Rutherglen Show. This would be a fundraiser for the Show Society. Preparations for the show were well in hand.

The annual dinner to be held on Saturday 27 January 2007 would be at a cost of \$10 adults and \$5 children. Donations were being sought for the auction following the dinner. Uta was to prepare a PowerPoint display celebrating the last 60 years of Wodonga Show Society. The band "Killin' Time" had been booked.

On 4 November 2006 the Society had earned \$500 for manning the gates of the Rutherglen show. It is reported that Donna had been busy promoting the trade sites for the next show she had done this by attending other local shows where she handed out trade site applications and show schedules. Donna was also to organise fliers for the Show Society dinner in January. 100 car stickers have been ordered they show the words "Wodonga Show Society" and the web address. This makes them generic year in year out and they are durable. Uta (Webmaster) reported the website had already had over 200 hits.

The report from the President, Doug McGrath, was read out in his absence due to work commitments and reported that there had been a very harmonious meeting with the Turf Club President. The Turf club will continue to pay parking fees for all meetings except Boxing Day which they will get free including the use of Bob Prichard arena. They also used Bob Prichard arena on Cup Day. The use of Bob Prichard arena will only take place if weather permits and it's agreed that there will be no damage done. The cup day event

we believe to be a week after Showjumping and remedial work after the jumping could be left until after the car parking. The arena will only be used if agreed that the conditions are okay. That is, wet weather would render the arena unsuitable for parking. In return for this the Show Society has full use of all the amenities under the Turf Club's control on show day and other usual activities the Society might wish to run. We would have access to the "straight" for the Grand Parade including minimum vehicular access as well for winning Utes and Miss Showgirl etc.

There was a chance that Travis Sinclair might be available to perform at the show.

There have been lots of enquiries for camping on the Showgrounds including from the cattle people and the model aeroplane group. There had also been lots of enquiries for trade sites at the show.

Emails had been sent to the local primary schools inviting them to participate in the colouring competition. This was available from the website. Yackandandah/Leneva Steam Engine Club have been invited to participate in the show. The show signs in Brockley and Wilson Streets needed updating and Peter Adams would attend to this.

On 6 December 2006 the treasurer reported that the cost for insurance for 2007 was down by \$1300 due to better deals to show societies.

There was a vote of thanks to Donna Reardon for all the secretarial and promotional duties that she was undertaking in addition to that in her official capacity as Treasurer.

President Doug McGrath had met Wodonga Council seeking future support for the Show Society.

Peter Adams has mailed entry forms of cattle and prime steer on green paper with a leprechaun in keeping with the Irish theme.

There will be a wine show and all is set with the judge coming up from Melbourne. ABC radio was to give Jacques publicity in a talk segment.

Arrangements for the dinner and auction were progressing well with an auctioneer having been secured.

2007

On 3 January 2007 donations continued to be received for the auction, a major item being a weekend's use of a ski lodge at Mount Hotham. Show passes had been designed by committee member Charles Tilley and would be printed shortly. A grant of \$1000 had been received from the Multicultural Commission.

7 February 2007 there was a thank you to all who supported the dinner and auction. Another thank you to Ron Long for the repair work he had done on the grounds. It was reported that the Corryong show was cancelled this year due to water and fire issues.

Vic Roads had confirmed their request to use the grounds for parking on the day of the official opening of the freeway.

The equestrian area would need watering from now on until the show and could be done

within the water restriction guidelines.

A trophy was being made by the woodcrafters for the wine competition.

The Woodchop had secured a Victorian Championship on the day of the show.

Joe Hofer reported that up to 160 animals would be at the Alpaca show.

An advertising budget of just over \$6,000 was agreed to.