

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

CHARLIE POLLARD, M.B.E. FOUNDATION PRESIDENT 1947

Charlie Pollard was the son of Joseph Pollard who took up land in Bonegilla after coming to Australia with his brothers George and John.

Charlie was born at Bonegilla in 1885. His wedding to Florrie Boyes was the first wedding in the Methodist Church at Leneva.

Charlie and Florrie had 6 children: Les, Valmont, Ray, Leile (Mrs. Evans), Ivy (Mrs. Duncan) and Merle (Mrs. Reid of Eskdale).

As well as running his dairy farm he became involved in community affairs and was later awarded the M.B.E. for his involvement. He was Secretary of the Murray Valley Shows Association, was Shire President in 1926-27, 1945-46 and 1946-47. He was President of the Wodonga Hospital before it was built, foundation President of the Wodonga Show Society, North-Eastern representative of the Dairymen's Association of Victoria, a member of the Committee for the Dairymen's Milk Factory in Fallon St., Albury (there was a Pollard, a Bran and 2 Flowers driving trucks for the organisation) and many other school and district committees.

The first electricity at Bonegilla went to the Charlie Pollards and the Michael Mullens families, both dairyfarmers, which allowed them to expand their farm activities.

The Pollard Archway, opened by Princess Alexandra was named for him. It used to straddle the Lincoln Causeway but was dismantled when the Causeway was widened. After a few years in the Wodonga Council yards the Wodonga Rotary Club refurbished it; and reassembled it at the entrance to the Wodonga Showgrounds because Charlie's son, Ray, was President of the Show Society and another son Les, was an active member.

Charlie Pollard spent hours as a child perfecting his copperplate writing which was to cause him some amusement in adult years when new Bank Managers refused to accept his cheques because it appeared the signature had been rubber-stamped. It was small, neat and perfectly lettered, The early minutes of the Show Society demonstrate the neatness of his signature.

Charlie Pollard died in 1966 during one of the worst snowstorms known in the district. Looking at the snow through the window of the bedroom in son Les's house, he said it reminded him of another severe snowstorm at Bonegilla 40 years before.

SHOW SOCIETY PRESIDENT
ROBERT RICHARDSON. 1949-1961

Born 1892, educated at Wodonga Primary School No. 37 (which is now the Continuing Education Centre in High Street) and Albury Grammar. Walked to primary school from Westlands where his parents lived.

After school he did what the children of most farmers did when they got home from school, milked the cows.

He worked with J. M. Peck & Sons, Stock agents where he learnt much about the sheep and cattle which were to become a major part of his life. He became the local representative for Australian Mercantile Land and Finance and among other duties had to oversee the transshipping of stock of all types which arrived by train. The dual gauge rail system necessitated the stock being unloaded and reloaded at Wodonga.

His field of activity extended into dealing with stock for himself, He moved cattle between Sydney and Melbourne, buying in one city and selling in the other, extending to the Hunter Valley, north to Tenterfield and into Queensland. From Queensland's township of Roma he arranged the walking of his cattle to Wodonga.

His interests were wide: He was Captain of the Wodonga Rural Fire Brigade, President of the Wodonga Turf Club for more than 30 years and President of the Wodonga Show Society, from 1949-1961.

In 1917 he married Miss Linda Gordon and the couple had 3 children: (Betty (Mrs. Kellaway, of Dee Why), A. G. (Bill) of Wodonga and Mari, Mrs. Chapman of Albury.)

He was Shire President from 1933-1936 and 1939-1941.

Richardson Street and Richardson Park were named for him. He was a foundation member of the Wodonga Show Society.

WODONGA WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

JOHN HAMILTON-SMITH President 1962-1974

John Hamilton-Smith was a horseman - a breeder, rider, exhibitor and judge. He judged all sections of riding and show jumping in all capital cities in Australia.

He married Grace Ellwood of Bethanga and they had two daughters - one is now a dressage and equestrienne judge at Werribee and helps with Riding for the Disabled - she is Mrs. Marilyn Greeves. The other daughter lives in Sydney.

Theirs was the first house in Batt Avenue - indeed they had to pay to have the road built. Grace still lives in that home. There were only 500 people living in Wodonga then.

During their years in Wodonga John was President of the Wodonga Rotary Club, He began the Cancer Support Group and belonged to a number of organisations including the High School Council. His name is on record with the Education Department in Melbourne as a man who gave outstanding support to education.

John had been an exhibitor at Albury Show for many years and fully supported the establishing of a Show Society in Wodonga, His membership was responsible for the increase in the number of pavilions at the Wodonga Showgrounds and he worked with the Wodonga Turf Club for the betterment of both organisations.

His widow, Grace, says he was responsible for the increase in horse events at the Wodonga Show including show jumping. She recalls going to the Showgrounds with John and their two daughters, and with the wives and families of other interested men, building the horse jumps and hurdles. Grace says John was instrumental in the introduction of two-day show events and encouraged President John Fisher in introducing them.

He was responsible also for the introduction of the Stud Stock Selling Centre and for the formation of the Pony Club. The Pony Club was the beginning of Border Show jumping.

One morning John went to the Showgrounds to work and found his name on the Stud Stock Centre - the Show Society Committee believed the Centre should be named for him. Although it was a surprise, most people believed he earned the recognition.

He was keen for a north-east produce display at the Show and Ray Pollard recalls John arriving at the Showgrounds in a wheel-chair to admire and approve the vast collection of produce which Ray displayed.

His Committeemen all had the highest regard for John Hamilton-Smith. So did the Womens Auxiliary for he was responsible for each section taking over its own displays. The Victorian Agricultural Society of Australia came from Melbourne to see how the division of responsibility worked, and recommended its adoption by other Societies. On Show Day John visited every section, speaking to stallholders and stewards and building a feeling of caring co-operation. He was President of VASA for 2 years.

John Hamilton-Smith died on 2nd April, 1984.

Hamilton-Smith Drive, the road into the Showgrounds, is named for him.

WODONGA WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

JOHN FISHER President 1975-1977

Born in Albury Hospital on 4th July, 1948, John was educated at Barnawartha Primary and Wodonga High Schools before leaving in 1966 to work on the family farm at Browns Plains.

He married Janet McMahon of Rutherglen in 1970 and they have 4 children, Susan, Christine, Gordon and Trevor.

John joined the Young Farmers Association and in 1973 was President of the State Achievement Day and a member of the State Council of YFA.

He wanted to run a day where individuals and teams competed and put forward a proposal from the Upper Murray District Council to conduct the State Achievement Day in Wodonga, It was held at the Wodonga Showgrounds. John had been interested in agricultural and pastoral shows and told this to the then President, John Hamilton-Smith who asked him to join the Committee. About 6 months later he was President of the Wodonga Show Society.

He says it was difficult being the Society's President because he lived out of town, it took a lot of time, and he had a young family and other interests and responsibilities. However, he is very proud that he helped John Hamilton-Smith and the other Show Society members establish the Stud Stock selling complex, a project for which the Wodonga Show Society was solely responsible.

John also became a Shire Councillor for Barnawartha Riding with Chiltern Council and served three terms as President.

He is actively interested in lawn bowls and is currently President of the Ovens and Murray West Association and this year will take over as President of the Ovens and Murray Group 6 which involves about 33 clubs from Corryong to Benalla.

However, he retains his membership of the Show Society which he believes is important, for shows have a place in our living. He says the Show has changed its role possibly because Wodonga stopped being a country town and people's interests changed, He says it's hard to compete with the big money events and although Albury and Wodonga try to be one city they are always competing for the same crowds and dollars.

John was mainly responsible for the show extending to Friday nights which was mainly woodchopping but it attracted people because all judging had been completed on Fridays and the pavilions were open on Friday nights as well as all day Saturdays.

During his time the Show Secretaries were Tom Brotherstone, Fred Beanham and Cecil Garrett.

WODONGA WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

ALBERT BARTON President 1978-79

Albert Barton was the Show Society's second youngest President.

Born in Gordonvale, Queensland in 1939 he came back to this district to work on his father's farm at Bonegilla about 1950.

He was a member of the Wodonga Show Society for 8 to 10 years and was influenced by John Hamilton-Smith to take an active role. He was the Society's President in 1978 and 1979.

He has worked for Uncle Bens and presently works for Vic Roads.

Albert was one of the members who resigned over a difference of opinion on whether the Show Society should try to keep up with the demands of the stock and station agents in requirements for the Stud Stock Selling Centre, or whether to hand over the Centre to the Wodonga City Council. He says the Stud Stock Centre was one among many good advancements made by the Show Society.

He says he enjoyed his time with the Society and the friendships that developed, and thinks he may rejoin the Society at some time in the future.

Albert is married to Lynette Robbins and has one boy and two girls.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

PETER ADAMS President 1980-81, 1993-1997

Born in Tallangatta, Peter Adam's family has been farming in the Kiewa Valley since 1902. His parents were Jim and Hope Adams.

Peter married Leonie in Melbourne in 1969, and they live and farm cattle at "Rockleigh" in the Kiewa Valley.

Peter began his involvement with the Wodonga Show Society as a steward in the cattle section. Then someone suggested he join the Committee and the rest, as they say, is history.

He was the Society's President in 1980 and 1981 and from 1993-1997.

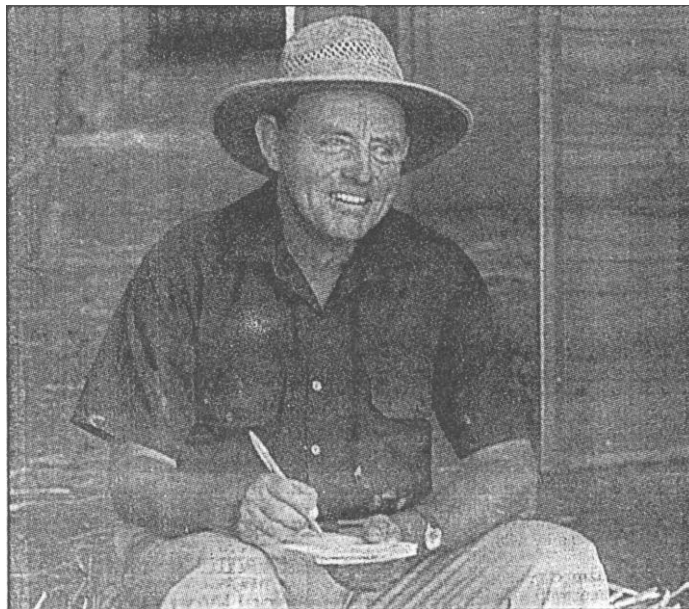
Peter was a Yackandandah Shire Councillor for 11 years representing Yackandandah Riding and is a warden of the Anglican Church at Allans Flat.

He says there has been a falling off in workers and supporters for the Show. But there has also been a growth in the scope of exhibits and many improvements to buildings and facilities which has improved the show generally.

Peter and most of the Committee members, say there has been an enormous improvement in the number and variety of Side Shows and pays tribute to the Showman's Guild for maintaining high standards of entertainment.

Open air features like the Motor Bike men and the fireworks display have added another dimension. However, he warns that the costs and benefits of the two-day shows must be analysed if the Show is to operate with financial responsibility.

Peter Adams as President of the Show Society, and Leonie, his wife, as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, have spent months working to ensure the success of the Wodonga Show Society's Golden Show.



Wodonga Show Society president Mr. Peter Adams checks out the entries (1997).

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

RAY POLLARD President 1982-1992

Born in Albury in 1925 to Charles and Florrie (nee Boyes) Pollard.

Schooled at Bonegilla primary school, after which he worked on the family farm milking cows.

The Pollard farm supplied milk to Bonegilla camp initially by contract and then direct, when it was first built. There was also a Wodonga milk round which brother Les supervised. The Army milk was provided to the canteens. Ray recalls filling by hand up to 4,000 one-pint milk cartons a day, putting in the milk with a dipper, lining the cartons up on the table, folding over the top and putting the cartons through a machine which sealed them with a metal clip.

In 1950 Ray married Nola Morrison and they have one daughter, Heather (Mrs. McFarlane).

In July 1966 there was a snow storm which covered the lower country around Bonegilla for 10 days. The Friesian dairy cows couldn't forage for pasture under the snow and couldn't get enough food so the Pollards had to hand feed them. Ray says production dropped by hundreds of gallons of milk. The snow fell 4 days before the death of Ray's father. His brother, Les, sat Charlie up in bed to look at the snow and he recalled seeing snow like that 40 years before.

Charlie and his son Ray were in partnership on one half of the farm while Les farmed the other half. However, when his father died Ray had to sell his top Friesian milking herd in 1968 to pay probate.

He started a stock carrying business which did well but the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation acquired his land and he, Nola and Heather, moved to Glenrowan where he bought a farm. The Country Roads Board acquired part of the land for the re-aligned Hume Freeway and Ray successfully negotiated the sale of the whole farm to the CRB. They came back to Wodonga, bought 100 acres of land between Chiltern and Barnawartha, which now belongs to their daughter, and a house in Beechworth Road.

Ray Pollard has exhibited at every Wodonga Show - he showed cattle while his father exhibited vegetables-but he didn't join the Show Society for many years because he didn't think it fair to exhibit produce and be on the Committee as well. However, he joined after selling his dairy herd and was a member for 24 years, including 10 years as President.

He recalls bringing a tractor to the Racecourse when the Show Society was first formed - Percy Newbound brought in a grader and between them they dozed, levelled and formed a trotting track inside the present race track. He says they were good trotting meetings at the Show but the first one on 'his and Percy' s' track was a matter of special pride, although the track was a bit small.

Ray became President in 1982 at the same time as Lorraine McRae became the Society's new secretary.

The Show Society moved the main arena from the racecourse to land it owned near Wilson Street. It was a big job for it had to be drained and levelled.

Jack Hamilton-Smith and Ray decided to have a special pavilion of district produce at the annual Show. Jack came to see it in a wheelchair just before he died and was delighted with its success. Ray travelled hundreds of miles to get material for the display. The purpose was to show what the

district produced. Ray believes it would be good to set up a Committee to reintroduce the display because it was well worth doing.

Ray says the Show Society members were struggling to finance the improvements to the Stud Stock Selling Centre which the stock agents were demanding but weren't prepared to make a financial contribution to. All the Society members were providing free labour to improve the centre and couldn't meet the demands. It was decided to sell half the Society's land to the Wodonga City Council which now controls the centre. He says the decision to sell split the Committee with 11 men and 8 or 9 women resigning, including Ray.

During the time before Ray became President the Committee bought from the Perry family a small building which is now the Show Secretary's office. It was improved with carpeting and furniture. It was then decided to add a separate section at the back, which has become the Secretary's office.

Because he was the son of the foundation President of the Wodonga Show Society, and because his father had been the Wodonga Shire President when the Pollard Archway was constructed to span the Lincoln Causeway (it was officially opened by Princess Alexandra), an application was made to the Wodonga Council to have the archway re-erected at the entrance to the Show-grounds. It had been removed from the Lincoln Causeway when the carriageways were widened and had been rusting in the Council's depot at Howard Street for many years. The Wodonga Rotary Club helped restore and re-erect the Archway and Ray was called upon to be lifted in a cherry picker to join the two parts of the archway by putting in the final joining bolt.

Ray is a Life Member of the Show Society and deserves to be, and he plans to continue his hobby of preserving and bottling fruit and exhibiting it at the Wodonga and other Shows.

He has always been supported in his Show Society work by his wife, Nola, who was a member of the Womens Auxiliary for many years and steward of children's art and craft displays.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

Melville LAMBOURN
Foundation Secretary 1947-1949

Son of Catherine (nee Mahon) of Yackandandah and William Lambourn of Albury.

Born 1st September 1905.

Died 7th August, 1970.

First Secretary of the Wodonga Show Society from 1947-1949.

First Secretary for Wodonga Hospital's steering committee (Hospital opened in 1954).

Secretary of the Wodonga Turf Club from 15th January 1948 to 5th August 1949 Secretary of the Wodonga Chamber of Commerce.

Member of the Wodonga Progress Association.

Married: Eileen Stead and had 3 children:

Bill, Norma and Joy

Bill's Children: Terry, Kaylene (Mrs. Bob Thomas) and Julie

Norma (Mrs. R. McGrath) children: Michael and David

Joy did not marry.

Melville Lambourn began work at Dalgety's in Albury before taking a position as Clerk with the Victorian State Electricity Commission in about 1949. He worked for the SEC at Yallourn, Bandiana (until it closed) and Mt. Beauty. He retired at Mt. Beauty at the age of 65 in 1970 and died five days later.



Mr & Mrs Melville Lambourn & daughter Norma in 1957

Information provided by his daughter, Mrs. Norma
McGrath, April 1996

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MRS. DOT LINDSAY

Secretary 1950-1959

Mrs. Dot Lindsay was the Wodonga Show Society's second secretary, taking the position vacated by Mr. Mel Lambourn in 1950 and staying for 10 years.

With her husband, Matthew, she lived at "Wallamatta", Staghorn Flat, until 1947 where they bred, cared for and sold thoroughbred dogs. After his death in 1947 she moved into Wodonga and lived in Hume Street (where C. & C. Constructions are in 1996).

She founded the Wodonga Kennel Club to raise funds for the proposed Wodonga Hospital.

She applied for the job of Show Society Secretary and was selected from seven applicants, The Dog Section of the Show 'exploded' from 2 sections to 12. She says she took the job because "the sceptics said a woman couldn't handle it." She "handled" it so well she asked her friend, Mrs. Nance Sumner to lend a hand, Mrs. Sumner found a new interest in life and remained the Show's assistant Secretary until her death in 1992. Another helper was Mrs. Lindsay's niece, Mrs. Barbara Yule, who says she was a very reluctant helper often working late into the night in the lead up to the Shows.

Mrs. Lindsay was a "go-er" as is instanced by the fact that in 1914 when she lived in Goulburn with her Mother, both women got their driving licences - the first women in Goulburn to do so. When she lived in Wodonga she drove a 1935 Hudson but wouldn't let anyone else drive it because she wasn't going to risk her perfect driving record.

When she resigned in 1960 it was because she was marrying Mr. Harry Wilkinson and going to Nagambie to live.

The Show Society's President, Mr. Rob Richardson said the resignation was a "bomb shell" and a "major blow" but in the circumstances the society had no choice but to accept it.

Mrs. Dot Lindsay died in Nagambie in 1968.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MRS. NANCE SUMNER Assistant Secretary 1950-1992

Almost everybody who had anything to do with the Wodonga Show Society from 1950 to 1992, remembers Mrs. Nance Sumner.

Born on 22nd December 1911 she married William Edward Sumner on 20th November 1943. They had two daughters, Elizabeth (Mrs. Jeff McEachern) and Roslyn, (Mrs. McCrow.)

While shopping in Wodonga one day Nance Sumner met Wodonga's new Show Society Secretary, Mrs. Dot Lindsay. Mrs. Lindsay asked what she knew about Shows. Mrs. Sumner said she'd entered some pickles the previous year but that was all. Mrs. Lindsay asked her to give a hand and she did.

She was the Show's assistant secretary from 1950 until her death on 16th April, 1992. They worked from Mrs. Lindsay's home in Hume Street.

In 1961 she worked in the special office in High Street which the Wodonga Show Society had to hire because of the large amount of work to be done in the weeks leading up to the Show.

As well as being Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Sumner served 12 years as President of the Womens Auxiliary formed in 1966.

Such was her enthusiasm for the event, Mrs. Sumner spent her winter nights cutting up the latest show schedule into sections and classes and pasting them on to sheets in preparation for the printing of the following year's Show.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MR. W. HURST GRAY Secretary 1960-1962

Mr. Hurst Gray was the Show Society's third Secretary.

He lived in Nilmar Avenue and it is probable that because one of his neighbours was Mrs. Nancy Sumner, he became involved in the Show Society through her enthusiasm.

He was a retired. P.M.G. (Postmaster General's Department) technician.

He was nominated for the position by Society President, Mr. R. Richardson.

Mr. Gray had assisted for many years in conducting the fruit and vegetable sections and his wife was keenly interested in Show work.

He was granted Life Membership of the Show Society for his contribution.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MR. JOE STOCKDALE Show Secretary 1964-1973

Mr. Stockdale came to Wodonga from Gippsland in the late 1930's/early 1940's and worked in telecommunications for the Postmaster General's Department all over north east Victoria.

At Bandiana he installed the biggest switchboard in the area with 300 lines.

He was in charge of the Wodonga manual exchange in South Street. He was secretary of the Wodonga Football Club.

He was a charter member of the Wodonga Rotary Club of which he was President in 1960/61.

He lived with his wife in Church Street and at one time lived in Charles Street.

He is remembered as a man who was very competent and intelligent.

He was keen on all forms of telecommunications and spent many weekends at the McFarland's farm sharing his interests in amateur radio with the McFarland Brothers.

Another interest was tennis, and he was a keen team player at the Church Street courts.

When he left Wodonga he returned to Lardner in Gippsland, to live. He died in 1995 in a nursing home, aged in his 90's.

This information was supplied by Mrs. Grace Hamilton-Smith, Mr. Reg Morley, Dr. Bill Grant, Mr. Les Taylor, Mr. David Mann and Mr. Hugh McKinnon. Mr. McKinnon worked in the Lines Section of the P.M.G. and Joe in the Technical Section.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

CECIL GARRETT Secretary 1977-1981

Cecil Herbert Garrett was born in West Australia on 12th May, 1915, at the small gold mining town of Westonia where his father managed the town's grocery store.

He grew up in Wiluna, then a large mining town in central W.A., and with his three brothers attended the Wiluna State School until he was 14 years of age when he became a messenger at the local Post Office. He studied and was promoted to Northam as the postal officer.

In 1939 he was appointed to the Post Office at the large military training camp at Northam. Because he was in an essential occupation he was refused enlistment until 1941 when he joined the Army. It was during this period he met a school teacher at nearby York and became engaged to Fran Walls. He served in coastal defence until his unit was sent to New Guinea. He married Fran in April, 1945, when on leave from New Britain.

After the war he returned to the Post Office at Northam and continued his studies, but prospects for promotion in West Australia were not good and he transferred to Albury Post Office in August 1947. Later he entered the Commonwealth Public Service as paymaster at Bonegilla Migrant Centre and later with the Department of the Army at Wirlinga Ammunition Depot. He transferred to Bandiana and worked there until his retirement in August 1976, when the Army recognised his service by naming a Bandiana street for him.

He was awarded Life Membership of the Albury-Wodonga Lawn Tennis Association in 1961 in recognition of his work for the Association in administration and coaching.

He was President of the Albury High School Parents and Citizens Association for a number of years and a charter member and past president of the Albury-Wodonga Border Lions. His physical activities are now limited because of Parkinson's Disease.

Cecil Garrett became the Wodonga Show Society's Secretary in 1977 - a part-time position which kept him busy almost full time. It was with regret that the Wodonga Show Society accepted his resignation from the position in 1981.

Cecil and Fran have two children: a son, Richard who lives in Sydney, and a daughter, Lesley, who lives in Adelaide. Both are scientists.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

Mrs. LORRAINE MCRAE
Secretary 1982-1990

Mrs. Lorraine McRae was born in Wodonga and went to school at the Wodonga Primary School and. High School.

She worked at Manns Hardware until she married school teacher, Robert McRae from Mt. Waverley. They have two daughters, Alison and Joanne who are presently at Melbourne University.

After the birth of the girls she stayed home for 10 years until she successfully applied for the part-time job of Secretary of the Wodonga Show Society. She worked hard, enjoying the challenge.

While continuing to work with the Society she returned to full-time work at the Wodonga Hospital, but doing two jobs became too much and she left in 1990.

Lorraine has a number of interests outside her hospital work - she collects Australian pottery, helps her husband farm cattle and hopes to continue travelling and expanding her knowledge.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MRS. THELMA WRIGHT

Secretary 1993-19-

Mrs. Thelma Wright came to live in Albury in 1985 with her husband, Ian, and son and daughter, David and. Lorraine. Lorraine died in 1991.

Thelma had been brought up on the land and knew sheep, wool, horses and agriculture generally, for the family grew merinos on a 6,000 acre property at Jerilderie. She'd had a continuing interest in Agricultural Shows because her Mother was an equestrienne at Geelong and Royal Melbourne Shows and the family's farming interests necessitated an interest in all types of agricultural activities.

She was driving the family car in Albury one day when she heard, during the CES job vacancies program, that the Wodonga Show Society needed a Secretary. She went to the CES offices straight away and that afternoon was being interviewed for the position. She had secretarial skills other than typing, and knew a great deal about animals and farming. That night she received a phone call to say the job was hers.

She's been the Show Society's secretary long enough to have the vision of the changes necessary to keep the Show viable. She believes the organisation has to change with the times but has to be reviewed regularly to become more efficient and smarter and cater to a different cross-section of community interests. She's a firm believer in the future of Agricultural Shows.

She has always had community involvement with youth organisations such as Cubs and Scouts, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels etc., and in enjoying the change of direction which the present job necessitates. She wishes more people would become involved with the Show and its presentation because it is educational as well as entertaining and must appeal to young people as well as Society members and supporters.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

A. G. (BILL) RICHARDSON Vice President Foundation Member

Born in the family home in Stanley Street (Upper Murray Family Care offices in 1996). Educated at Wodonga Primary School No. 37 and Albury Grammar School.

Served with the 2/12th Field Regiment Artillery during World War II from 1940-1945 in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo.

Married Dawn (nee Collings of Albury) in December 1945.

They had four children: Peter, now of Table Top, Anne (Mrs. McCutcheon of Townsville), Margaret (Mrs. Rapsey of Tallangatta) and Robert, who farms at Benalla.

Before the war - in 1937 - worked in the Melbourne office of A.M.L. & F. and for them at Newmarket, then the biggest saleyards in Australia.

After the war decided against returning to Melbourne and went into partnership with his father, Robert. Has worked the family property in Coyles Road, Wodonga, since.

Both Bill and Dawn have received Community Awards from the Wodonga City Council for their community services.

Bill recently resigned from the Committees of Vermont Court and Westlands Hostels for the Frail Aged.

Was a Wodonga Shire Councillor and President from 1962-1963. He is a Life Member of the Show Society.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

ROBERT HALL Foundation Member

Robert Hall was a Foundation Member of the Wodonga Show Society and has been involved in community affairs in Wodonga all his adult life.

He was born at Alexander on 6th March, 1916 but lived in Melbourne on and off until his teens. He attended the first Kindergarten in Victoria at Alphington and went on to enrol at Northcote High School not long after it was built in 1928.

The family moved to Wodonga about 1930 and bought the business known as Boswells near the corner of Tallangatta and Beechworth Roads owned by the late Arthur Dunstan. Undertook a course in bookkeeping and business management at St. Augustine's Catholic School in Wodonga where he also studied piano and classical music.

Robert played football with Wodonga in 1931 and later signed with Fitzroy.

Robert Hall says when the family first arrived in Wodonga there was a bad depression. People were travelling from city to city and 'jumping the rattlers' looking for work. The price of bread was 9d. a 4-lb. loaf which was 2 high-tops together. There were two other bakers in Wodonga at the time and within a few months there was a price war and the price dropped to 6d. a 4-lb. loaf. Robert's brother, Leonard Arthur Hall, was already a baker with the family business and although he won the Australian Heavyweight Boxing Championship and in 1941 was heavyweight for the 3-services, he did the finest sugar decorating. After the war he taught at the William Angliss School in Melbourne.

He says those were the days of home deliveries – Halls delivered to Wodonga, Wodonga West and Leneva several days a week – 35 miles per trip by horse-drawn vehicles. Everybody was served to the house. His father was the main deliverer preferring the horse and cart to driving a car. His Mother handled the night sales of bread. Baking began at 10 every night.

Flour was bought from local mills - P. J. Burrows whom Bunge purchased in 1928 before the Wheat Board was established. Yeast came from Melbourne although sometimes they had to make their own. Ice came from Borthwick's iceworks.

Dough was hand-made, in troughs 12 feet x 2'6" sloped on the side. At one end was put 3 150lb. bags of flour and water was added at the other end - up to about 6-8 kerosene tins, add salt, yeast, bread improver and it was pulled through with your arms. Room temperature was under 50°. The dough was cut 5 times and spread, then covered and proved for 3 hours. It was then knocked down to expel the gas, left for half-an-hour, tipped out and cut up. The bread was put in tins and placed in ovens on long-handled spades and cooked for 30-35 minutes.

The ovens were wood fired Scotch ovens, mainly brick especially designed for the wood on one side so the heat went around the oven and fire bricks to hold the heat.

When the ovens were opened the steam which came out was nearly 100% alcohol and that is why the bread kept better and the smell attracted customers.

While the bread was baking pastries, sponges and shortbreads were made. He says he was the first to become fully mechanised in the Wodonga area. That was in 1940 when he bought land in High

Street from Mr. Henry Trudewind and built a new bakery and residence, It had first cantilever verandah in Wodonga

1932 was the start of the Wodonga saleyards and the year Dunstons began building on the corner of Tallangatta and Beechworth Roads. McCullough (who later established an undertakers business with Arthur Dunstan) had a mechanics shop next door to the bakery. McCullough became a partner of Dunstan in the funeral business and in 1939 Robert Hall married Nita McCullough.

He had built and paid for his own home into which they were able to move.

In 1937 he joined the Lighthorse along with Alf McGeoch and Des Martin. He tried to enlist in the Air Force but was rejected because he was in a reserved occupation. So he joined the Army and was sent to Puckapunyal where he trained in artillery and played football for the local team which included 14 League players - he played centre, Henry Bolte, later to become a Victorian Premier, was the Army's paymaster at Puckapunyal.

He sailed on the S.S. "Barradeen" as reinforcements to the 2/8th Artillery-9th Division, trained at Gaza and joined the regiment at Alamein. He was in the 2/8th sports pentathlon which he won for running and jumping and the last 100 yards giving his team the Shield.

Back to Australia in 1941 he was sent to the Atherton Tablelands to train in jungle warfare to go on to the islands but injured his leg and was in the Australian General Hospital for 8 weeks. The Bread Manufacturers Board applied to the Minister of the Army, Mr. Ford, for his discharge and he came back to the bakery business in Wodonga.

In 1960 he had been doing business with the flour milling firm of Burrows which was owned by Bunge, an overseas firm known throughout the world who controlled the wheat market, the rubber market and put money into the Belgian Government's vast interests in the Belgian Congo. He says: "Bunge was a Scandinavian firm which merged with Bjorn, a big wheat firm. The only other big wheat firm was Dreyfus. They asked if I would amalgamate and on 30th May 1960 I went in on a share basis with them which gave us three-fifths each and we took over Thiells in Albury, Brooks, Downings and about 6 bakeries all told and formed Southern Border Bakeries. That left Wise Bros. bakery which built a factory in the Lavington area. Later Bunge Bros. bought them out and it gave us a monopoly."

"Bunge was spreading through Victoria and New South Wales but I didn't have the time or money to be involved. I sold my shares but stopped on as general manager of the bread section and a director of the company".

Robert Hall held office in many bread organisations:

- A member of the North East Bread Manufacturers and President. Councillor on the Victorian Bread Country Association for 15 years representing them at arbitration in Spring Street, Melbourne.
- President and Vice-President of the Country Association of Bread Manufacturers President of the Combined Melbourne Association.
- Written up in the First 60 years of the Bread Industry.
- Lobbied politicians for improvements to the industry.
- In 1960 he became representative on the Bread Council of N.S.W. for 2 years while being a member of the Victorian Council.

- 17 years on the N.S.W. Council as Country Association President and Vice-President of the combined country and metropolitan area. Vice-President to Keith Opie as Federal President of the Association of Bread Manufacturers of Australia and New Zealand.
- Involved with Conciliation with John (now Justice) Cahill and Alan Miller on Conciliation in Sydney.
- Sat with Mick Walsh who was Victorian under-secretary on Arbitration and Tim Carney, under-secretary of N.S.W. to bring about cross-border co-operation in the industry.
- Formed 'Sunicrust' and in the late 1970's the consortium built a new factory at Wodonga.

His civic involvement included:

- President of the Wodonga Progress Association, an organisation which successfully lobbied Wodonga Council for sub-dividers to construct kerbs and gutters, footpaths and seal streets. The Association also lobbied the Wodonga Shire Council to form a Waterworks Trust to improve Wodonga's water supplies which were then obtained from the Railways supply.
- A Wodonga Shire Councillor for 9 years.
- Foundation member of the Wodonga Show Society.
- Foundation member of Albury's first Lions Club.
- Foundation member of Wodonga Lions Club.
- Captain of the Rovers Football team and committeeman.
- Member of the Wodonga Fire Brigade.
- Member of the Wodonga Band.
- A member of Wodonga Scouts.
- President of the Australian Natives Association.
- Gave the first acre of land to the Wodonga Hospital. (Others to give one acre were Charlie Ryan and Cliff Sheather), Another 3 acres was also bought from Lindsay's farm for the hospital. Lobbied Senator Tangey for hospital.
- Life Governor of Wodonga Hospital (as was his Mother) and gave several rooms to the hospital.
- Member of the Wodonga Hospital Committee for 27 years.
- Honorary Probation officer from 1957.
- A member of the Apprenticeship Commission.
- Supported the establishment of the Clyde Cameron Trade Union Training College in Wodonga because it taught how to produce, present and arbitrate cases,
- Was a member of the Industrial Tribunal for 27 years.
- Member of the Tallangatta and District Football League until Feb. 1979.
- Member of the Bread Advisory Committee which established a Bread Research Institute, the only bread research, in the world,
- Represented the East Sydney Technical College in advisory capacity for 5 years,
- Hall Street was named for him.
- He holds the R.S.L.'s 50 years membership badge.

Robert Hall now lives in Tallangatta Road (Thomas Mitchell Drive) with his second wife, Mitzi. He has 4 children from his first marriage: Graham, Janine, Caroline & Pamela.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

Mr. J. A. E. STREET

Mr. J. A. E. Street was a community minded man. He was a member of the provisional committee formed to establish a Show Society and he was a Foundation Member of the Society's first Committee. Indeed, it was Mr. Street who was responsible for the motion to call the new organisation "The Wodonga Show Society".

Married to Margery Provan the couple had three children: daughter Dianna (Mrs. Cunningham of Shepparton), David who farms at Tumbarumba and who, in time, also became a Show Society Committeeman, and Harvey who farms in the Mitta district.

Mr. Street was a Wodonga Shire Councillor for many years - a forward thinking man who helped shape the future city of Wodonga.

His work as a primary producer led to his appointment to the Board of Directors of Gippsland and Northern company, a position he held for many years. He was also a Trustee of the Wodonga Racecourse, Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve.

He remained an active member of the Show Society from its inception until his resignation on 1st April, 1976, completing 30 years of service to the organisation. He resigned because of failing health and died soon after.

Streets Road in Wodonga is named for the Street families who farmed Bandiana Park

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

JACK STANLEY HORE, M.B.E.

Jack Hore came from Bungil in the Upper Murray.

After leaving school he trapped rabbits for a living before moving to Wodonga where he bought an old Ford and started running taxis. He was 18 years of age. He boarded at the Terminus Hotel and Glenburnie Boarding House.

He later bought an old house at 70 High Street, Wodonga, demolished it and built a new house for his bride, Martha Schneider from Walwa. Their 3 sons, Noel, Colin and Ross still live in Wodonga.

He played football for Wodonga and was Captain/Coach the year they won the grand final of the Chiltern and district League.

He was active in most community organisations in Wodonga at the time -the Rural Fire Brigade, Urban Fire Brigade, Hospital Board, Masonic Lodge, Wodonga Council and a foundation member of the Wodonga Show Society.

He was a Shire Councillor for more than 20 years, winning the seat formerly held by Charlie Jones, a butcher. He was Shire President from 1941-43, 1949-50, 1957-60 and 1963-65. He was awarded the M.B.E, for services to his community.

At the age of 73 he took part in a walkathon around Hume Weir, which his family say exhausted him and began a decline in health which led to a heart attack and his death in 1970 at the age of 73.

As a member of the Wodonga Show Society he was a tireless worker, taking part in endless working bees, building pavilions, Committeeman, Vice-President for a term, painting and renovating, constructing fences and working wherever needed.

WODONGA SHOW PEOPLE

MR. E. B. MANN

Mr. E. B. Mann was born in Boort in central Victoria - the family lived at Quambatook.

In 1902/1903 when he was a small child, the family moved to Wodonga and bought a dairy farm "Glen Murray" at West Wodonga.

The young Ernie went to Wodonga West Primary School and left when he was 13 years of age to work on the farm.

During the winter the family built houses, many of which still stand in Wodonga.

In about 1919/20 his father bought a block of land in central Wodonga and began a small business which grew into one of the best known business houses in Wodonga and district. There Ernie, aged 20 and his brother Bob, aged 18 built a shop about 30 feet X 50 feet, bought supplies of bran, pollard and salt and a second hand pair of scales, and called themselves 'produce merchants'.

Grandfather Mann guaranteed their bank account for £200.

Ernie Mann married Evelyn Morrison and they had 3 children - Kath, David and John.

He had many interests outside his growing business and home. He was a staunch Methodist and always found time to support his Church. He was, for many years, Secretary of the Cemetery Trust and he was a Shire Councillor for 9 years. He was also a foundation member of the Wodonga Rotary Club.

During the war one of his fund-raising activities was the running of Gymkhanas and from that came the proposal to form a Show Society to raise money to build a hospital in Wodonga. He was a foundation member of the Wodonga Show Society and was made a Life Member in 1949 for his continuing involvement.

Mr. Mann died in the 1970's.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MR. JACK REID

Jack Reid joined the Society and was elected to the Committee in 1948.

Born in 1918, one of 10 children, Jack was raised at Gundowring until he left school at 15 years of age to work at Wangaratta on a mixed farm. His wage was 10/- a week.

He married Doreen Humphreys of Tallangatta in 1944 and has two sons, Max and Ken.

Neighbour, Arnie Ford, persuaded him to join the Show Society. Like all other committee members he worked long hours at the Showgrounds constructing buildings and fences and ovals, and was awarded a Life Membership for his services.

He had many other community involvements too. Among them:

- Secretary of the Kergunyah Fire Brigade for 20 years,
- Life Member of the Tallangatta Football League
- Yackandandah Shire Councillor for 30 years including 3 terms as Shire President, and involvements with River Trusts.
- He was Yackandandah Shire Council's representative on the Kiewa River
- Trust for over 30 years and continued in a personal capacity;
- Chairman of the Victorian River Trust Association covering Victoria.
- Helped form the Upper North East River Management Board and the amalgamation of the Upper Murray, Kiewa and Mitta River Trusts.
- A member of the Kergunyah Hall Committee for 50 years.
- Secretary of the Kiewa Bowling Club,

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MR. VALLY HEMPEL

Former Life Member

Mr. Vally Hempel was a member of the First Committee of the Wodonga Show Society and stayed on to become a Life Member.

He came from Guy's Forest where his father was a blacksmith. After his father's death, when Val was 11, he moved with his Mother and sister to dairy farm at Yabba Road.

He married Jessie Hottersley and had two daughters, Clare and Beverley.

Val was an apprentice motor mechanic in Sydney before working for a firm in Albury until 1938 when he opened the Tower Service Station in Wodonga and worked there for 10 years.

He and his wife bought a property at Barnawartha, but lived in Wodonga. He retired in 1970 after they sold the farm.

Val was President of the Wodonga Historical Society and he and his wife were involved with the Horticultural Society.

Val spent countless hours working at the Wodonga Showgrounds helping establish it as a community asset. The decision to award him with a Life Membership was a popular one.

His elder daughter, Clare (Hartwig) also had an involvement with the Wodonga Show Society as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary which was formed in 1966.

Val Hempel died in 1986.

WODONGA SHOW PEOPLE

MR. GEORGE COYLE

Mr. George Coyle joined the Show Committee in its early days working through the years to ensure the success of each Show. His efforts were rewarded with a Life Membership.

He was born in Chiltern and grew up in the Indigo Valley, the son of farmers. His formal education was gained at Middle and Upper Indigo primary schools. When he left he worked for other farmers as well as his parents gaining experience in sheep and dairy cattle particularly.

He married Blanche Cheesley of Barnawartha and they share-dairied for 3½ years. In 1943 they bought their own property where he cut enough wood to pay off the farm. There they raised their 5 children. Over the years he bought other farms but the Albury Wodonga Development Corporation acquired them all. They moved to 152 acres closer to Wodonga in 1947 and built their home where they lived for about 28 years. In 1974 they moved again to land which fronts what is now known as Coyles Road. Three weeks later they got an acquisition notice from the AFDC and now own only their house block. However, George keeps farming on land leased from the Development Corporation.

His association with the Show Society continues. For many years he was Chief Steward for the sheep pavilion. Now he doesn't spend as much time at the Showgrounds as he once did, but is still there each year to help during the Show.

He has always supported the Ladies Auxiliary of the Society, donating money when it was formed to help it become established. His wife, Blanche, was a foundation member of the Auxiliary which was formed in the mid-1960's.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

BERTY REUSS

Berty Reuss was born in Albury in 1905.

In 1919 he entered his school exercise book in the Albury Show and won a 1st prize, the certificate which was signed by W. J. Johnson, the Albury Show Secretary. He admits to 'having a craze' for lettering when he was at school and if a pupil finished 30 pages of work in an exercise book it could be entered in the Albury Show. He still has that book and prize ticket.

In 1928 he took up land on the Murray River flood plain adjacent to the Wodonga Creek and the stock route and established the property "Park View". With his wife, Grace (nee Gray) he began milking 60 to 70 cows by hand and making twice daily deliveries to Albury and Wodonga but only once a day on Sundays. There were about 35 individual licences to sell milk in Albury at one time and competition was keen. North Street was almost the boundary of his Albury run. Deliveries were made by horse and cart - his first cart had iron sleeved wheels but was replaced later by a rubber tyred cart which he has kept for sentimental and historical reasons. The same horses and carts won him tradesmen prizes in the Albury and Wodonga Shows.

He was not the first to take up the land - it had been used as a police paddock and a closer settlement block.

The small building on the block became their house and was extended as their family grew to 8 children. They had no water, sewerage or electricity and access to the block was via the stock route or across the creek by boat or wading - it was many years before the Council agreed to construct a bridge over Wodonga Creek. The access road built when the Hume by-pass of Wodonga was constructed is named Reuss Road.

He says the Wodonga Show Society has played a big part in his life. He has exhibited at every Wodonga Show although he didn't join until a few years after the Show Society was formed. His family took 'hundreds of prizes' over the years for their livestock, tradesmen turnouts and fruit and vegetables. He took over from Eddie Schulz as the head steward of the horticultural pavilion and held the job for 30 years. He handed over the job when he became ill in the 1980's, and stopped going to Society meetings when his wife died in April 1982. However, he's still to be found at every Wodonga Show, and is a Life member of the Society.

Tons of fruit and vegetables entered for competition in the Show have been taken to the Wodonga District Hospital at the Show's completion. He believes that has always been so and must have saved the Hospital thousands of dollars buying produce. He remembers the late Don Kruss loading a truck with produce to take to the hospital. (Don's wife, Kath Kruss, was Matron of the Wodonga Hospital and a member of the Womens Show Auxiliary.)

In the Show's early days possums tried to take bites out of the exhibited fruit and vegetables so Mr. Reuse sprinkled pepper among the exhibits and solved the problem. In the Show's first years the horticulture was displayed in a marquee lent by the Army. He says the one-day shows were hectic with exhibits in by 8 a.m., set up for judging by 9 a.m., judging finished at 11.30 and the pavilion door opened at midday. People often complained to President, Bob Richardson that they hadn't had time to see half the Show. Bob would say "Well, come back next year and see the other half."

Berty says the Wodonga Show has been an important part in the development of Wodonga, giving people an idea of what is produced in this area. Farmers have improved their own animals by seeing what the other fellow was producing.

He says the Stud Stock Centre is a credit to the late John Hamilton-Smith and is proud of its place as Australia's most important Stud Stock selling centre.

He said life has been hard and a series of battles. He had to battle with the Wodonga Shire Council when it wanted to take 64 acres of his property for a sewerage fare,. He fought them for two years spending thousands of dollars before winning. He says some Councillors couldn't understand his point of view when he was promised another farm in its place. He pays tribute to a couple of the Councillors who supported him, including Ernie Mann, and says the late Tom Mitchell who was the National Party's local Member of Parliament was another supporter.

The Chief Dairy Inspector for Victoria wanted the farm to remain where it was and local solicitors and a Melbourne barrister fought for him. He said the fight he had with the Council is a story in itself.

Another battle was with the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation which thought it had the farm at one time and came to ask him what they could do with the land. But they didn't get it either and Berty Reuss says he'll see out his days on the land he has worked and loves.

He wants to give credit also to his family for their support: Ellinor who has just retired from teaching; George who leases the farm and runs fat cattle and is a partner in RBR Party Hire; Bernice a dressmaker who moved to Melbourne and worked for Arnotts for 30 years; Joe now in security business, Rosa is headmistress at Beechworth High School, Larry is a clergyman and has been an Anglican Minister for 25 years and now lives in Murwillumbah, Harry graduated in Agriculture from Longeronong College before spending 2 years overseas with Australian Volunteers Abroad and finding he wanted to be a Minister; Lorraine who trained as a nurse at Prince Henry's Hospital, then midwifery at Queen Victoria in Adelaide, went to Papua-New Guinea for two years with Australian Volunteers Abroad, spent time training in Germany and Switzerland, worked in Aboriginal settlements in South Australia and Queensland and is now nursing in a jail in South Australia. The Eldest child, Joan, was killed in a road accident.

WODONGA SHOW PEOPLE

MR. ALF ROBINS

Born at Narrabri on the Namoi River of New South Wales Alf Robins spent his first night in Wodonga sleeping in the grandstand at the Wodonga Racecourse. At the time he was in the Army's 140th Transport Regiment and it was wartime. Sent to Wodonga to camp, the tents didn't arrive until next day when they were put up on the Wodonga Racecourse.

He had married in Muswellbrook on 17th March, 1936, and his wife joined him to live in Wodonga after the war. Mr. Robins presently lives with his only daughter, Mrs. Lynette Barton of Bellbridge.

He joined the Wodonga Show Society in 1953 and was awarded Life Membership at the Annual General Meeting on 8th June, 1978 - he has been a Show Committee member for 43 years.

WODONGA SHOW PEOPLE

WALTER SCHUBERT

Walter Schubert was a farmer and like many other farmers in the Baranduda district, he worked for the Wodonga Show Society as a Committeeman and volunteer labourer.

Rex Howard, Harold Chapple, Kevin Hynes, Alan and Glen Simmonds all were Show members and exhibitors.

Walter was born at Baranduda 1911, went to school there, farmed there and would have died there but for the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation taking their farm of 200 acres and ending a 112 year association with that land. It was something Walter and his wife Marjorie, didn't enjoy - leaving their land and going to Bellbridge to live.

When he'd finished school, Walter farmed dairy cattle and cared for his widowed Mother and his sister.

He married Marjorie Brewer of Leneva West, and in due course they were all involved with the Show - Walter as a Committeeman and worker, Marjorie helping with the Miss Show Girl competitions (along with her sister-in-law Eileen Brewer) and the two daughters of Walter and Marjorie, Betty and Dell who rode their ponies in Show events. Betty also worked with the Show Girl competition in 1958 as Steward.

The Show was a big job for many volunteers and Walter mowed grass, prepared cattle yards and cleaned up after the Show.

Walter Schubert died in 1981 aged 70 years,

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

Mrs. Grace HAMILTON-SMITH Ladies Auxiliary and Wife of President

Mrs. Grace Hamilton-Smith was the daughter of Mark and Rosina Ellwood who moved into Wodonga to live in 1934 when their farm was acquired for the Hume Weir. They bought a home in Bank Street set in 2½ acres of grounds.

Soon after, Grace married John Hamilton-Smith and they designed and built the first house in Batt Avenue. There they raised their two daughters, Merilyn (now Mrs. Greeves of Werribee) and Robyn (Mrs. Reaney of Sydney).

John Hamilton-Smith was a breeder and judge of horses judging in all sections of riding and show jumping. The family were all involved in horse activities. (Merilyn is a dressage and equestrienne judge at Werribee and helps with Riding for the Disabled.)

Mrs. Hamilton-Smith recalls their involvement with Wodonga and with the Wodonga Show Society and the horse events. In the early days there were no loudspeakers and the wives and mothers had to run back to the Show office with event results and get them through to the Border Mail which printed them. The Show was then a one-day event and all entries came in the morning providing a great deal of work for the volunteers. It was a new period for the Show having jumps and hurdles instead of a few hack classes. The women had to help their husbands build the jumps to a good standard. They painted panelling with bright colors and placed branches and pot plants along the sides so the horses wouldn't go crookedly through the jumps. It was heavy work and an exhausting day.

Later Grace joined the Womens Auxiliary and worked in the crafts pavilion.

Still she helped her husband with the horses setting up changing rooms for riders and jockeys and providing the judges with refreshments.

She says all workers at the Show were volunteers and worked almost full time to keep the Showgrounds and buildings in good order.

John became President in 1961 and held the position for 13 years. She pays tribute to all those people who helped him, saying a leader needs first class troops. She says among those who gave so much time and effort to the Show were Robert Richardson, Bill Richardson, Max Jamieson, Rob Barton, Jack Hughes, Jack Reid, Bob Alston, Mr. Klinge, Stan and Merle Clarke, Jack Hore who was a Shire President and got grants through various channels, Joe Stockdale who was secretary for many years, Nell Wilson, Ernie Mann who was a great stalwart, Walter Schubert, John Schubert, Glen Simmonds and his wife Mary; who is still there every year, Ken Watson whose sons Ian and Bob used to come now and then, Bernie Cox, Ron Rapsey, Arty Brewer who was a great stalwart, Jack Street, Keith Turner, the first lady to work with the Committee Mrs. Dot Lindsay who was appointed Secretary, and Nance Sumner who assisted her and later the women who formed the Auxiliary.

While John was also President of VASA, Mrs. Hamilton-Smith said they visited most country shows in Victoria. It made them appreciate the wonderful workers at Wodonga. Among the women there were Nance Coyle, Kath Kruss, Leila Wolfe, Merle Clarke, Nance Sumner, Mari Schubert, Mrs. Erlindson, Enid Pollard, Nola Pollard, Thelma Zeinert, Ruth Eveson, She also remembers Mrs.

Morley who lived at Koetong who was a judge, very clever and meticulous in her handwork - she even tanned the leather from which she made her own shoes.

She recalls the days when Show Girls were escorted for judging in Melbourne by the President of the Society and his wife. Some of the Mothers used to make umbrellas to match their daughter's Show outfits, hats, gloves and shoes.

Mrs. Hamilton-Smith has helped at all Shows until the last few years. She also exhibited tapestry and embroidery. She says the Auxiliary had to place terms on the entry of handiwork to ensure it had been done in the last few years. The reason was that people were sending exhibits they had won prizes for in previous years and although some of them were beautifully worked, the judges were having to make decisions against modern work. Some were asking the Show Secretary to post on their work to other Shows. Mrs. Hamilton-Smith says it didn't give new or young exhibitors much opportunity because they couldn't compete against some of the excellent work.

She says Insurance is a big item now. Animals are valuable and there's more possibility of people doing nasty things to animals. The same goes for good needlework. The Society always made sure perfect care was taken of goods entered and there was never an article lost. But insurance doesn't cover the loss of beautiful handiwork. The Society does insure against loss or damage. She's noticed changes in needlework styles - every year there's another way of doing something - one year it's tatting, another crochet or stencil painting. Show schedules have to alter to get fresh work coming in.

The introduction of new public entertainment keeps the Wodonga Show popular and the provision of good pavilion space encourages exhibitors. It contrasts with the 'old- days' of tents and marquees being popped up, putting up benches from which to sell goods.

And the wonderful new toilets that were built meant they didn't have to run half-way across the grounds! Perhaps they were the best improvement made to the Showgrounds for some time!!

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

HAROLD CHAPPLE

Son of William and Charlotte Chapple, farmers and beekeepers at Baranduda, Harold was born in Wodonga in 1918. He went to school at Baranduda and, like most youngsters, left school as soon as he had his Merit Certificate, and went hay carting, He'd also catch rabbits and trap water-rats for money. He can't remember what he got for the rabbit skins but says the meat was cooked up and fed to the chooks. Trapping water-rats was legal then and he got 1/6d. a skin.

Because his father kept bees and produced honey, Harold became a beekeeper although he really wanted to be a carpenter. However, there were no apprenticeships during the depression and he had to keep up his bees and honey business, winning many prizes at shows.

In 1940 he married Joan Schubert from Leneva and they have one daughter, Mrs. Jocelyn (Tim) Bowran.

The Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation acquired 14 properties in the Baranduda area, including his so he moved to Bethanga and bought 30 acres of land and has lived there since.

Although he retired from professional beekeeping in 1903 he is still registered and keeps a few hives.

He served 4 terms as President of the North East Apiarists Association which was formed in 1955 and was honored with a Life Membership. He's had the Life Membership for a number of years but it was only in May 1996 that he was awarded with his Life Membership Certificate.

Harold Chapple became interested in the Wodonga Show Society because most of 'the boys' (his neighbours) were members. In spite of a physical disability he was an active member at working bees and took charge of the show's Sheep section, He was a member of the Show Society for 25 years until his health broke down and he had to resign.

WODONGA SHOW PEOPLE

MR. & MRS. STAN & MERLE CLARKE

Mr. & Mrs. Stan and Merle Clarke were living at the Wodonga Hotel while waiting to move on to their newly acquired farm, when they heard people discussing a meeting that would form the Wodonga Show Society.

It wasn't long after they moved on to the property at West Wodonga that a neighbour, Des Klinge, asked Stan if he'd join the Show Committee. Both men had an interest in sheep and Stan thought the involvement would be interesting. That was the beginning of a long association for them both with the Wodonga Show Society which culminated with a Life Membership for Stan.

They remember going to the first Show which was held on the Racecourse. There was a display of big machinery and cars around the arena inside the race track. Goats were exhibited on what was to become Show Society land and, because there was only one building, exhibits were displayed in marquees. Meals for officials were served under the Grandstand.

There was no Womens Auxiliary as such, but the wives of Committee members went with their husbands and helped in whatever section the men were working. They also helped build the horse jumps.

They remember the Show Committee introducing insurance coverage following an accident at Rutherglen where an axe flew from a woodchopper's hands and hit a bystander and another accident at Tumbarumba which cost the organisation a couple of thousand dollars.

Stan recalls he and Ernie Mann building a pavilion so that vegetables could be displayed on one side and flowers and sewing on the other. Ernie fell off the roof and was injured.

Merle recalls the tremendous energy and enthusiasm of Mrs. Enid Pollard and Mrs. Nola Pollard. Enid and Nola built up the women's entries into outstanding exhibits and Enid was responsible for the beginning of the One Woman's Work and the C.W.A. exhibits. She remembers the women taking home Prize Cards to fill out the sections and classes and have them ready to attach to winning exhibits. All the women helped in that work.

Merle and Stan's son, Robert, also became involved in the Show helping steward the goat section for Hec Thompson. Fraunfelders at Table Top were the major exhibitors of goats.

Sheep were always a popular section and a major attraction for show patrons. Cars and machinery attracted keen interest but times changed and Trade Fairs took their place. Local traders like Stiff & Gannon displayed household and store goods and Parkers Nursery always had a big display.

A fruitgrower named Dave came from Cobram each year with a truck load of peaches and apples and people went to the Show just to buy his fruit.

They also remember members of the regional Red Cross branches forming a large hollow square and people visiting the Show giving their donations to them. That was the way in which Red Cross conducted its annual appeal instead of door-knocking.

Stan Clarke was responsible for the letting of space for many years and recalls a charity which must remain unnamed sending two elderly ladies from Melbourne to collect money. He gave them a stand near the bar because it would be a good spot to collect loose change. Before the day was out

the two ladies had frequented the bar so well they had a problem collecting money.

The Clarkes have seen many changes in the show from the small one-day show to John Hamilton-Smith's introduction of a night show on the Friday and now to a two-day Show staged on the Society's own grounds and well exhibited in a number of pavilions.

WODONGA SHOW PEOPLE

MR. ARTIE BREWER

Mr. Brewer is a Life Member of the Wodonga Show Society, having joined the Committee in its early years.

He has been one of the Society's keenest volunteer workers and could be found almost any day of the year at the Showgrounds, clearing, repairing, building, digging drains or whatever else needed doing. During Show Days he worked long hours as a Horse Steward. Yet the day after the Show he'd be back at the grounds clearing up and putting away and beginning work for next year's Show.

He was born in Albury, spent most of his adult life farming at Huon Creek Road, and is married to Eileen Birtles (Rawson).

Mr. Brewer died on 26th June, 1996, after a long illness,

Border Mail Deaths 29 June 1996

BREWER, Arthur Frederick. - At Wodonga Hospital on June 26, 1996. Aged 82 years. Beloved husband of Violet (dec), and Eileen. Loving father and father-in-law of Melody and Barry Sproule. Loved Pa to Shelley and Matt, Scott and Donna, Dean and Loretta and Justin. Great-grandfather of Kade, Russell and Jeremy.

Loving Memories.

BREWER, Arthur Frederick. - Fondest memories of my loving brother, always there to lend a loving hand, you will always be in my thoughts and in my heart, Mummy's little pet, Tay. Rest in peace. My best shearing mate.

BREWER, Arthur Frederick. - Respected life member of the Wodonga Show Society. -President, committee and members.

BREWER, Artie. A Paul Harris Fellow and long serving member of the Rotary Club of Wodonga. Deepest sympathy to his wife Eileen and family. Rotarians are asked to form a guard of honor on Monday.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

LES POLLARD

Son of Charlie Pollard and Florrie (Boyes), Les was born in 1914.

Like the other members of his family he was a pupil at the Bonegilla Primary School.

He left school to work on his Father's dairy farm.

Les later took over half the farm and also developed a milk run in Wodonga.

He joined the RAAF during World War II.

Les married Enid (nee Rowe) and had one son, Valmont, who is Principal of Glenormiston Agricultural College.

Enid established a plant nursery and Les changed from dairying to beef.

He was a member of the Wodonga Show Society for about 18 years spending considerable time helping at working bees and working on improving the grounds and facilities.

Les Pollard died in 1990.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

JIM McGRATH

Mr. James (Jim) McGrath is a Life Member of the Wodonga Show Society and has been responsible for the condition and upkeep of the grounds for many years. He was a member of the Turf Club for 20 Years and a Wodonga street - McGrath Court is named for him.

He was born at Old Tallangatta in 1913, the third of 6 children of John and Esther (nee Cross) McGrath. His Mother died in 1921 leaving six children aged 1-12 years, Jim was 8 at the time.

Like most people of his day when he left school he took whatever work provided a living - on dairy farms, droving, gravel carting, horse breaking, mustering and moving cattle to and from the Bogong High Plains. He also travelled the cattle trains, a job for the lively of mind and agile of foot. His job was to keep the cattle on their feet and make sure they arrived in good condition.

When droving he was paid cash at so much per head for the number delivered and had to provide his own horses, equipment, food and expenses.

In 1941 he enlisted in the Army joining the 14th Australian Field Ambulance with the Citizen Military Force and Australian Imperial Force. After special training at Bonegilla Military and Heidelberg Repatriation Hospitals he was sent to Papua/New Guinea on the Hospital ship "Manunda". Taken by plane over the Owen Stanley Ranges he marched through knee deep mud from Poppindetta to Soputa to the medical station at Muttons Post where he 'helped patch up Australian soldiers'. A Boston Bomber crashed nearby and with two commandos Jim tried to rescue those on board. They got one man from the burning plane before ammunition on board began to explode. Knowing there were also bombs on board the others ran, but Jim dragged the injured man to safety with the ammunition exploding around him.

The Medical Centre's operating theatre was an ordinary ambulance stretcher beneath a sheet of canvas. It was here he learned admiration for the Doctors. He also had great admiration for the men of the 39th Battalion who "with nothing to fight with but pure Australian courage showed the world what our young Aussies can do." He says it was there that God took over, the Japanese began falling back and our troops took them all the way to Gona Beach.

After his discharge on 1st June 1944 he married Lillian Margaret Larkin of Mitta and they had nine children. After several years of farming they moved into a new home at 115 Tarakan Street, Wodonga, where they have lived since. It is close to the Wodonga Showgrounds where Jim still spends many days helping maintain the property and running the annual shows.

Jim passed away on

WODONGA SHOW PEOPLE

MRS. BLANCHE COYLE

Mrs. Blanche Coyle was a foundation member of the Wodonga Show Auxiliary formed in the mid-1960's at the suggestion of the then Show Society President, John Hamilton-Smith. In the following years she was to be the Auxiliary's President and Secretary.

Mrs. Coyle says the Auxiliary complemented the men's Committee (of which her husband George was an early Committeeman and later a Life Member) and helped raise funds for the benefit of the overall Show Society.

She recalls with pleasure many nights at the Bonegilla Hall when one room was filled with people dancing to the music of local musicians and another room with a much quieter crowd playing cards (euchre).

The Auxiliary took charge of the women's exhibits which included cooking, C.W.A exhibits, craft, needlework, cake decorating and other handcrafts. During the years she, and other stewards, have met some characters and handled some strange exhibits. One boiled fruit cake was the most extraordinary cake ever entered in the Show - it was not the fact that it was 8 inches high which attracted attention, but that it was burnt black all over. Another character that members remember was a very fine cook who came from a nearby country town with boxes and boxes and boxes of cakes for entry. Yes, she did win many prizes, but it was the wonderful character the lady possessed which they'll not forget. She usually prevailed upon her friends to take her to Wodonga and the extraordinary number of boxes which were unloaded each year from the Car, were fascinating. Sometimes she had to travel by train, but that didn't lessen the number of boxes and the semi-chaos that accompanied her every appearance.

Mrs. Coyle says the standard of entries is as high as it used to be but there are not as many sections and entries.

She contrasts the present 1st and 2nd prize money of \$4 and \$2 with the 2/6d. (25c) and 1/- (10c) of the early shows for which the entry fee was 6d. (5c).

There was another exhibitor the stewards remember who used three different names when making her entries.

The memories are those of women sharing times of companionship and pleasure.

Mrs. Coyle was a member of the Church of England catering group which provided lunches for officials and stewards, but when those who hadn't done much to help began lining up for a free meal, measures were taken to lessen the queue.

She also recalls the camaraderie between the Albury and Wodonga Show groups and the sharing of activities and enjoyment of each other's Shows.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MR. ROY HEMPEL Life Member

Roy Hempel's parents, Herman and Daisy, were dairy farmers at Huon.

Roy travelled to Wodonga to attend school at the building presently occupied by the Continuing Education Centre. He recalls the 1939 fires when the school bus was travelling its normal route through Baranduda and Kiewa when suddenly it was surrounded by swirling flames and black smoke. Charging at the bus out of the gloom, came a mob of cattle escaping the paddocks as the fences were cut to release them. The bus driver couldn't go on because of the flames and Roy says if the driver hadn't kept calm in the desperate situation, they could have been burnt to death. As it was the bus was turned safely and escaped the flames and Roy was delivered safely home after a long trip home around the weir. There was no school the next day. But he remembers the silence of the students as they drove through the burnt areas with dead sheep and cattle, and burnt out buildings. The Baranduda Hall and Church had been destroyed yet the school was unharmed. He says he'll never forget that ride home with the country burning around them.

He became a wool classer and worked for Younghusbands. Mr. George Coyle was looking for someone to take charge of a new section to be started by the Show Society and asked Roy Hempel to do the job. He's worked for the Show Society since that time in 1950.

He's built up the section from a handful of fleeces to about 40-60 that are currently exhibited. He says the spinners and weavers boosted the fleece exhibits with their demands for colored wool.

Roy married Margaret Loney of Albury and has a daughter, Karen.

He believes the Show Society has to change to meet people's demands - where once they wanted to see cattle and handcrafts, now they want to be entertained with more active and spectacular displays.

The Show Society has not been his only interest.

He was a foundation member of the Wodonga Apex Club:

- a foundation member of the Wodonga Amateur Swimming Club;
- a member of the Baranduda CFA; a member of the Masonic Lodge;
- a member of the Wodonga Bowling Club;
- Scout troop leader during the war and Scoutmaster at Wodonga.
-

Roy passed away in November 2003.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

GLEN SIMMONDS

One of the Show Society's keenest members, and a Vice-President for many years, Glen Simmonds died in 1983. His widow, Mary, recalls being 'conned' into spending many hours with him at the Showgrounds wielding a paint brush and doing other chores on working bees.

Glen and Chas Whitla controlled the letting of space at the annual shows among other duties.

Glen was born in Tallangatta and went to school at Baranduda.

He married Mary Forge of Wagga Wagga in 1948 and they dairy-farmed in the Middle Creek area until his death.

He was a member of the Country Fire Authority and President of the Baranduda State School and bowls was his favourite sport.

Mary has continued here involvement in the Show and for many years has conducted the Miss Show/Sun Show Girl competitions and the Tiny Tots section.

Their daughter is now Lt. Col. Glenda Simmonds in the Army in Melbourne.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MR. BOB PRICHARD

It's probably true to say that horses are the chief interest of Mr. Bob Prichard. He joined the Wodonga Show Society at the Annual General Meeting of 14th June 1979 because he wanted to be involved in the horse sections of the Show.

He was founder of the Show Jumping Club in 1979 and lists horse sports, the Show Jumping Club, Pony Club and Show Society – and football – as his main interests.

Bob Prichard was born in Tallangatta and went to school at Springdale between Tallangatta and Bethanga. He worked on the family farm with his three brothers Tom, Gordon and Dave (dec.)

He lived at Tallangatta until 1960 when he married Daisie Dickson of Barnawartha and moved to Barnawartha to farm. He has lived there since with Daisie and their three children Charlene, Robert and Greg.

The Bob Prichard Arena was named to honor him for his work for the Show Society.

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

NEIL BOTTRELL

Mr. Neil Bottrell joined the Committee of the Wodonga Show Society on 18th September 1955 when Mr. John Hamilton-Smith thought he'd be an ideal committeeman.

The son of a Mounted Policeman he was born at Cobargo in New South Wales and had a life-long interest in horses. His Mother died when he was 5 leaving two young sons and two daughters. Later his father married again and eventually there were 8 children in the family.

The young Neil went to Pambula and Lockhart Public Schools before enrolling at Yanco Agricultural (McCaughey Memorial) College where he graduated.

His first job was with Younghusbands as a wool classer in Albury. He transferred to Leeton where he worked with stock and later returned to Albury. He had a short spell with Elders before returning to Younghusbands to manage its Wodonga office.

In 1971 he and a partner founded Bottrell Smith & Co. Pty. Ltd. Stock and Station Agency. When the business was sold to Victorian Producers he stayed on as a Commission agent.

Meanwhile at the Showgrounds he joined Alf Robins in the arena where they were ring masters for many years. Neil was the Show's ringmaster until his death on 24th January 1997 at the age of 68.

He was a foundation and life member of the Wodonga & District Pony Club, a member of the Albury Wodonga Stock Agents Association, Bonegilla Rural Fire Brigade, Barnawartha Campdraft committee, Border District Showjumping club, Barnawartha Football Club and the Vermont Court Committee of Management.

Neil Bottrell prided himself on doing things well and contributing to his community - it was the attitude which earned him Life Membership of the Show Society.

He married Joyce Boyd of Albury in 1958 and they had three daughters - Robyn (Mrs. Donlan), Sandra and Karen.

DEATHS

BOTTRELL, Neil William. -
Suddenly at home, Bonegilla,
on Saturday, January 25, 1997.
Beloved husband of Joyce and
devoted father of Sandra,
Robyn and Karen, father-in-law
of Stephen and loved poppy of
Josh and Emma.
Aged 68 Years

WODONGA SHOW SOCIETY PEOPLE

MR. JIM PARKER

When Jim Parker joined the Wodonga Show Society Committee in 1949/50 he was its youngest member – aged 21. He was the son of Samuel Thomas Parker whose father, Samuel Skelton Parker, had taken up 300 acres of land in West Wodonga about 1890 after moving from Barnawartha. Porkers Road is named after the family.

Jim worked the farm during and after the war and until the Albury Wodonga Development Corporation acquired it in 1974. It is now part of the Wodonga Golf Course.

He married Norma Jean Sumsion and they have 3 children: Leonie, Graeme and David. Leonie's (Mrs. Colin Martin) children are the 5th generation of Parkers to live in Wodonga but the first to live away from the farm. Jim and Norma's second child, Graeme James Parker married Debbie Styles and they live in Chiltern with their two children. David Parker married Michelle Rice of Albury and they live in Mandurah, West Australia, with their 3 daughters.

Jim and Norma moved to Chiltern to farm when their land was acquired.

Jim's brother, John Peter Parker, worked on the farm before joining the RAAF, but moved to Albury later to work for Borg Warner. He is now retired and lives in Albury.

Jim recalls many working bees and Shows during his time on the Committee. He says the Showgrounds of today, with their new buildings and ground layout are a far cry from the first Show of 1947. That first Show had a carnival atmosphere with the loud music and the call of the sideshow owners to 'come and have a go'. At the same time there were 3 judging rings operating in the centre of the ground and the cattle section was a hive of activity with the judging of the various breeds of cattle entered.

There was no let up all day long with programs of jumping and trotting events. There was also the Grand Parade which was equal to any other country show.

He says working bees always saw Foundation President Charlie Pollard arrive with big quantities of water melons for the workers. He says the Committee members were a likeable bunch of fellows, all successful in life and although he was only a young bloke they treated him as one of the men.

President, Robert Richardson, the Society's second President, was a real gentleman who would never ask anyone to do something he wouldn't do himself. So long as you heard Bob whistling you knew things were going alright. When the Show was in progress the President would go to each section to see how things were going and if anything was wanted.

Committee men Rod Barton and Arnie Ford provided entertainment during working bees with their wit and jokes.

Jim recalls the pens for the sheep section of the Show being gates taken off the calf pens of the Elgin Street saleyards, and tied together.

Jim says the Department of Agriculture sent exhibits to the Show in a goods train. The exhibits would go to the Goods Shed near the Carriers Arms Hotel and be taken to the Showgrounds where a tent would be erected and exhibits displayed inside.

Jim says the fat cattle section yards were made from stringy bark poles wired together and situated east of the Grandstand.

Some horse judges were Tom Coffee, Bob Latta, Charlie Rodgers, and Mrs. K. D. Watson judged the harness ponies.

Timber for roofing came from trees felled on President Robt. Richardson's farm near the old Rifle Range in Wodonga West. They were transported to Schubert's saw mill at Baranduda where they were milled into timber of various sizes. Committee members would go to the mill for a working bee and on again to the Showgrounds with the timber for another working bee.

Timber was also obtained from Des Klinge's property at Wodonga West adjacent to Felltimber Creek.