

**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NATAL  
OFFICE BEARERS 2012 - 2013**

**Patron**

The President of the RSA

**Vice-Patron**

The KwaZulu-Natal Premier

**President**

Mr M Moncur\*

**Vice-Presidents**

Mr K Makan\* and Mr T Nixon\*

**Honorary Life Presidents**

Messrs R McDonald, J M Fowler, R J Glaister,\* H D Spencer, D A Wing, A J Line, G I Ellis and Dr I Stewart\*

**Honorary Life Vice Presidents**

Messrs R B Lobban, Dr M J O Taylor, Mr K R Howes and Mr G D J Atkinson

**Honorary Presidents**

The Judge President of KwaZulu-Natal  
The Msunduzi Municipality Mayor  
KwaZulu-Natal Minister of Agriculture

**Honorary Vice-Presidents**

The eThekweni Municipality Mayor  
The President of Kwanalu  
The Chairman of the SA Sugar Association  
The President of the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Business  
The President of the Durban Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
The Mayor of the Umgungundlovu Regional District Municipality  
The President of the Women's Institute of KwaZulu-Natal  
The Executive Director of Forestry South Africa

**Trustees**

Messrs R McDonald and R J Glaister\*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

***President, Vice-Presidents & Honorary Life Presidents***

***Elected Members:***

Mr S Colenbrander, Mrs M du Preez, Mrs D Fitzsimons, Mr C A Froneman,  
Mr K Makan\*, Mr M Moncur\*, Mr C Scott and Mr A Shaw

***Chairpersons of Standing Committees:***

Finance	:	Mr N Thomas*
Agricultural Implements	:	Mr P Prinsloo
Capital Projects	:	Mr R J Glaister*
Cattle	:	Mr E Köhne
Crafts & Home Industries	:	Mrs H Whelan
Commerce & Industries	:	Mr MJ Frickel
Sheep/Goats/Horses	:	Mr J Tyler
Birds & Rabbits	:	Mr T Nixon
Garden & Leisure Show	:	Mrs P Ellis*

***\*Members of the Management Committee***

**CEO**

Mr T D Strachan

**CHAIRPERSONS AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE SOCIETY'S COMMITTEES  
2012 - 2013**

**The Executive and Management Committees**

The President, Mr M Moncur  
Vice-Presidents: Mr K Makan and Mr T Nixon

**Capital Projects Committee**

Mr R J Glaister

**Agricultural Implements**

Mr P Prinsloo

**Cattle Section**

Mr E Köhne

**Crafts & Home Industries**

Mrs H Whelan

**Commerce & Industries Section Committee**

Mr M J Frickel

**Sheep & Goat Section Committee**

Mr J Tyler

**Birds and Rabbits**

Mr T Nixon

**Sunday Tribune Garden & Leisure Show**

Mrs P Ellis

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**Administrative Staff**

Mr T D Strachan - CEO  
Mrs B Shaw - Accountant  
Ms J Frazer - Secretary  
Mrs C Nänni - Exhibition Co-ordinator  
Mrs P Pandither - Venue Hire Co-ordinator  
Mrs I Peters – Reception

**Grounds Staff**

Mr A Motilall - Grounds Superintendent  
Mr R Reddy – Assistant Grounds Superintendent  
Mr K Naidoo – Artisan

# THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NATAL

Royal Showgrounds  
Howick Road  
Pietermaritzburg

18 October 2013

## NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY  
WILL BE HELD IN THE GRILL ROOM AT THE SHOWGROUNDS, PIETERMARITZBURG  
ON WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 15H00  
TO TRANSACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS

1. Notice convening the meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 November 2012
4. To receive and approve the Report on the general affairs of the Society to 30 June 2013, together with the audited financial statements to that date. The Report and Financial Statements will be made available to any member who requests same and copies of the aforesaid documents will be available for inspection during normal working hours at the Society's offices.
5. To receive a report on the state of membership as at 30 June 2013
6. To elect the Vice-Patron of the Society for the ensuing year
7. To elect on the recommendation of the Executive Committee one or more Honorary Presidents and Honorary Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year.
8. To elect, if necessary, no more than eight members to serve on the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.
9. To receive the name of the Chairperson and his/her alternate of each of the Standing Committees which Chairperson shall be automatically co-opted to the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.
10. To elect from the members two Trustees for the ensuing year.
11. To elect an Auditor for the ensuing year.
12. To agree, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the entrance fees and annual subscriptions for the various classes of membership for the ensuing year.

13. To amend the Constitution  
On the recommendation of the Executive Committee and confirmed by the Society's attorneys, to amend the Constitution to cater for the future taxable status of the organisation, details of which are available on the Society's website – [www.royalshow.co.za](http://www.royalshow.co.za)
14. To transact any General Business

By order of the Committee  
T D STRACHAN  
CEO

**NOTES:**

- (a) **No candidate shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee unless he has been nominated by two members of the Society and such nomination, endorsed with the candidate's willingness to accept nomination, shall have been delivered to the Society's offices at least seven days before the date for which the Annual General Meeting has been convened.**
- (b) **A meeting of the newly constituted Executive Committee will be held in the Committee Room at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting for the purpose of electing a President and not more than two Vice-Presidents as well as to conclude any business of a pertinent or urgent nature.**

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE for the year ended 30 June 2013**

**To be presented to Members at the Annual General Meeting of the Society  
to be held in the Grill Room at the Showgrounds, Pietermaritzburg  
on Wednesday, 6 November 2013**

### **AN OVERVIEW**

Whilst not the easiest of years, the Society produced a superb set of results with a surplus before taxation of R3 220 952; being 53% up on that of 2012.

Although the Royal Show remains the primary source of revenue, the significant increase in the number of conferences and functions held outside of show periods made a meaningful contribution to the surplus. Interestingly, this is not so much the result of marketing as it is to word of mouth on the part of many a satisfied client.

Organic growth of this type is always pleasing and providing standards can be maintained or better still, enhanced; it is likely that this component will become even more prominent in the future.

### **Positives**

- A superb year producing a record surplus.
- Despite tax payments, approximating R900 000, having been made during the course of the year, strict internal control has resulted in the Society's liquidity remaining comfortably intact.
- Following three successful years at the helm, Dr Iona Stewart, the Society's first lady President, made way for Mike Moncur, a longstanding member and Chairman of the Sheep Committee. With her intuitive wisdom, Dr Stewart continues to serve on Manco.
- The number of Municipalities exhibiting in the Sunday Tribune Garden Show continues to grow with Richards Bay and Upington being first time participants in 2012.
- Both the Royal and Sunday Tribune Garden Shows were largely deemed to have been a success.
- Although no records were broken, Royal Show livestock entries met expectations and the following national championships were held – Angus, Hampshire Down, Ile de France and Suffolk.
- In the livestock section, the construction of a new bridge was completed during the year, together with two additional grooms' rooms and the re-roofing of cattle stall block N.
- Whilst there was initial consternation on learning that the Triple A Abattoir was no longer in a position to slaughter carcass competition livestock, both Jacques Abattoir in Estcourt and the Dalton Abattoir, were in a position to fill the breach.

- The Society was represented by Mike Moncur, Damiar Schoeman and Terry Strachan at the Samic Awards Dinner in Vryburg. At this time the following trophies were received:
  - The largest mixed Agricultural Show in the country
  - The show achieving the highest auction prices in 2012/2013 in respect of lamb (R475 per kg) and beef (R110 per kg).
- The refurbishment of the Equestrian Clubhouse was completed as was the new paved pathway leading from the Gate 3A precinct to Hall 9.
- The Royal Horse Festival took place in late March and was adjudged to have been a success.
- The Society was represented at the RASC Biennial Conference in Zambia by Dr Stewart and two Next Generation candidates, being Mark Stewart and Courtney Wood.
- Following the 2013 BEE audit, the Society was again adjudicated to be a Level 2 operator; a pleasing score which will prove beneficial in growing future business.
- Wage negotiations with Nehawu achieved resolution with agreement being reached at 9% (1,5% above the national norm).
- The new staffing complement manning the front office has settled in well and is meeting all expectations.
- The year saw an increase in the number of conferences and functions hosted by the Society and for the ninth consecutive year we were privileged to host the official opening of the Provincial Parliamentary session.
- A permanent Wi-Fi zone covering Halls 6, 7, 8, 9 and the Olympia Hall was installed during the course of the year.
- Radio Hindvani entered into a lease with the Society to utilise the first two colonnades adjacent to Hall 2 for permanent broadcast and marketing purposes. This effectively gives the Society an invaluable year-round mouth piece.
- The Society's proposal to host the South African Sugar Technology Association Conference in 2014 was successful; this being the first international conference secured in open competition with blue chip South African conference venues.
- By way of an exhibit, we participated in the Meetings Africa Exhibition in Johannesburg which met expectations from a branding perspective.
- By virtue of the lengthy association and meaningful contributions made to the Society by Maritzburg College and the City; framed certificates were presented to both organisations by way of commemorating their 150<sup>th</sup> and 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, respectively.

- To assist with periodic refocusing, a SWOT session was held during the course of the year at which time it was agreed to enhance the use of the electronic social media for marketing purposes. A follow up session will be held in due course.
- A ceiling, new downlighters and an air conditioning system were installed in the admin offices; this being the first phase of an overall refurbishment exercise.

### **Negatives**

1. By virtue of failing to meet obligations, it was necessary to terminate the tenure of the Dros restaurant. The negatives relating thereto were further perpetuated by the proprietors opposing liquidation, necessitating costly legal proceedings.
- During the course of the year the grant provided over many years by the City in respect of electrical consumption, was terminated.
  - On Monday evening 29 October 2012, the flood-control canal – for the first time in six years – burst its banks, inundating the cattle arena and adjacent areas to a depth of 30cm.
  - Following many years of use, the Members' facilities require significant refurbishment; in particular the floor, where owing to age, the tongue and groove will no longer withstand further sanding.
  - The Showgrounds sustained in excess of R700 000 damage caused by a wind storm late on the afternoon on Sunday 6 January 2013; most notably the destruction of the Members' Grandstand roof and the JOC office. Fortunately repairs were covered in full by insurance.
  - David Wing, a most able President of the Society during the difficult years spanning 1998 to 2003 and Dawn Meyer, the convenor of the icing cake section, a wise friend and stalwart, passed away during the course of the year.
  - Following a lengthy partnership, the 2013 Royal Show saw the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Business no longer participating by way of a dedicated display in Hall 1.
  - Regrettably and following a change of staff, the South African National Seed Organisation withdrew from partnering the Royal Show in respect of the seed component re-introduced in 2012.
  - Having been involved with the cattle section for over 30 years, the Society was saddened to note the decision of Grant Kobus – the Section's Chairman – to immigrate to New Zealand.

## ROYAL SHOW ATTENDANCES

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Day 1 .....	7 539	8 068	9 312	8 265	6 193	6 940
Day 2 .....	18 881	20 028	20 434	16 817	19 282	21 212
Day 3 .....	19 805	19 655	16 639	16 419	13 940	18 717
Day 4 .....	7 161	8 357	6 763	8 235	5 427	7 715
Day 5 .....	7 017	8 447	7 102	6 696	7 332	8 857
Day 6 .....	11 203	11 598	12 932	11 053	9 929	12 186
Day 7 .....	14 849	17 252	13 945	12 421	12 559	13 464
Day 8 .....	9 971	10 891	9 391	13 062	9 503	10 257
Day 9 .....	24 218	26 788	25 598	22 504	22 261	25 859
Day 10 .....	21 550	22 367	24 196	20 559	12 317	30 268
	142 194	153 451	146 312	136 031	131 060	155 475

## ROYAL SHOW – GENERAL ASSESSMENT

With its plethora of emotions, from 'merriment' to 'tragedy' – the 2013 Royal Show was akin to a Dionysian festival.

Deemed by exhibitors and visitors alike to have largely exceeded expectations, the Royal Show was tragically marred by its first death of a guest in its 163-year history; this, involving a six-year old child. The incident took place in the funfair, allegedly the result of the youngster extricating himself from a ride in motion. Whilst the technical and SAPS investigations are completed, the findings of the formal inquest are still awaited.

Total Royal Show attendance was 142 194, 7,3% down on the 153 451 visitors in 2012; almost certainly the result of the down-turn in the economy.

The commercial side of the show hosted in excess of 450 exhibitors and feedback was largely positive, with acceptable sales being reported across the mix; from capital and agricultural equipment through to bric-a-brac.

It was especially enlightening to see the continued growth in the capital and construction and materials handling sections, again indicating that the Royal is considered to provide a conduit of benefit befitting participation.

Four of the commercial halls hosted dedicated displays; the Olympia catering for The Mercury Food and Fine Living Festival, Hall 2, with The Daily News *Absolutely Fabulous* range of displays focused on health and beauty, Hall 4, the SAPS, together with the Department of Correctional Services and related role-players, and Hall 7, The Witness Hall of Technology. In all instances, high standards were achieved, very especially in the case of Hall 4, where the safety and security services put together one of the most informative and inter-active exhibits ever seen at the Show.

Efforts are made annually to include no less than a 20% new factor each year and in 2013 one of the most exciting additions to the Show was the KZN Sharks Board who not only participated by way of an informative display but also with shark dissections.



The official opening ceremony held on Friday, 24 May saw the City partnering the Royal by way of a joint launch of Pietermaritzburg / Msunduzi's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, coupled with the opening of the show. Senior government officials, several MECs and nine mayors from across the province attended, with the senior guest of honour being the Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize.

Incorporating a military parade, a grand fireworks display and musical performances by Jason Hartman and Thokozani Langa, the occasion translated into a pleasing event, notwithstanding relatively poor attendance; probably the result of the function's early commencement on a working day.

The Land Bank Corporate Sponsors' Dinner was held on the Monday evening, preceded by a polo demonstration match. The guest of honour was Angela Quintal, editor of The Witness and the occasion was also used to acknowledge the contribution of both the City and Maritzburg College to the Royal Agricultural Society as they celebrated their 175<sup>th</sup> and 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary respectively. Framed certificates were presented to both organisations in recognition of services rendered.

Moving on to entertainment.

Under the leadership of Captain Scully Levin, the Eqstra Flying Lions aerobatic team participated by way of five displays during the course of the first weekend, including an evening performance with special lighting effects.

Saturday, 25 May saw the return of the world-renowned Jungle Rush FMX bikers with a breath-taking display, followed by the Royal Show concert in partnership with East Coast Radio. Artists on the evening included Toya Delazy, the Graham Watkins Project and Lonehill Estate.

The Royal symphony performance took place on Sunday and despite the unseasonal heat, was well supported. This was followed in the afternoon by the ever popular RSG concert catering largely, but not exclusively, for the Afrikaans-speaking KZN community.

Also, an interesting *Working On Fire* demonstration took place, incorporating the use of air support with water buckets. A most informative and exciting event.

Ably overseen by Colin Scott, Jacquie Pappas and Priscilla Young, the show hosted a meaningful equestrian presence, focused largely on young riders and concluding on the final weekend with the South African national tent pegging team competing against provincial sides in two exhibitions.

More so than in previous years, the SANDF contributed to the entertainment mix – virtually every day of the show - by way of bands, drill demonstrations and dog displays; the highlight being the South African Medical Corps medal parade held on the second Saturday, with over 100 military personnel in attendance. This pleasingly choreographed event was well received by the large number of visitors on the day.

Over an extended period, the Royal Show has become a 'home from home' for the dog agility fraternity and we were again privileged to host the KZN Championships in 2013.

The final weekend saw the return of the Jungle Rush display, on this occasion incorporating motor vehicles performing to a capacity audience and this was followed by the Radio Hindvani Bollywood Extravaganza.

The Show concluded on Sunday, 2 June with the Ukhozi FM concert, which attracted some 22 000 visitors. Whilst such numbers are daunting, the largely family-orientated audience had an enjoyable day and no incidents were reported.

Having said this, the tendency in recent years for persons not attending the concert to gather outside the grounds along Chatterton Road – ostensibly to hold private parties – continues to cause headaches for adjacent businesses, the South African Police and the traffic authorities. This matter requires addressing going forward.

As an adjunct to the main arena programme; with a meaningful range of activities and entertainment, the Royal Show saw the Riverstage returning to the Dorpspruit.

Whilst the fairground incident will cast a perpetual shadow for all stakeholders, the favourable feedback received from exhibitors and visitors alike point to the Show having been an overall success.

As is customary, exhibitors were electronically canvassed to adjudge their participation in terms of expectations having been met. A 48% response was received and the results were as follows:

<b>Score</b>	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
<b>% of responses</b>	17	19	26	25	7	2	2	1	0	1

From a security perspective, the SAPS reported that the 2013 Royal Show turned out to be the most crime-free in recent years. Only eight incidents were reported, relating primarily to the opportunist theft of handbags, cell phones and laptops.

This notwithstanding, the following negatives – some more serious than others – will require attention in 2014 and beyond.

- Whilst, pleasingly, the Show continues to attract vast numbers of youngsters; especially school groups attending on the Wednesday and Thursday; it has been determined that in many instances – especially in the case of young children – that inadequate supervision prevails.
- Following the vibrant activity of recent years, during which time their substantial exhibition area was utilised for an eclectic mix of displays spanning the entire week, the chain sawing component failed to meet the expectations of an anticipating public. Sadly, competitions and demonstrations only took place during the course of the first three days, leaving a (relatively) substantial area moribund for the balance of the Show.
- Although the cattle arena witnessed a significant number of visitors and exhibitors, it is distressing to note that many of the adjacent breed clubhouses appear to be consistently under-utilised; this at a time when the Society is struggling to accommodate ‘blue chip’ equipment exhibitors as a result of space constraints.

- During the course of both Saturdays, the public car parks under the Society's control reached capacity, resulting in a number of guests (including members) being forced to find alternative areas along adjacent roadways. This caused consternation, especially on the part of the elderly, who were compelled to walk substantial distances.

Whilst 2013 wasn't without its challenges, we were blessed with good weather, exhibitors with satisfactory sales, favourable reports from a significant number of visitors and a low crime rate; and on a positive note we look forward to 2014.

The Royal Show records its appreciation to the numerous volunteers and sponsors who contributed to this year's event; very especially Telkom, ABI and the Land Bank.

### **AGRICULTURAL SECTION**

With reasonable livestock entries in all sections and sites catering for implements and equipment being over-subscribed, the expectations of stakeholders were met.

The occasion saw the hosting of the Angus, Ile de France, Suffolk and Hampshire Down National Championships and overall, the stud component did not disappoint. In particular, it was pleasing to see a large number of out-of-province exhibitors, some from as far afield as Stellenbosch, Vryburg, Schweizer-Reneke and Tzaneen.

As is traditional, the first weekend of the Show is focused on commercial on the hoof judging, as well as the youth and future farmers. All components were well supported.

A spirit of camaraderie prevailed throughout the cattle and sheep sections and this was enhanced by 50 young farmers competing in a variety of technical but fun-filled challenges. The overall event was won by the Owen Sithole College of Agriculture, who walked away with prize money of R5 000.

Monday, 27 May saw the introduction of classes for non-registered heifers; the intention being to broaden the scope of the cattle section by bringing into the mix non-stud animals 'in their working clothes'. The pilot exercise achieved its objectives and it is hoped that this new addition will expand in future years.

Equally, the Standard Bank Gold Cup dinner and parade – the culmination of the livestock programme – on Friday evening, 31 May turned out to be a grand affair with in excess of 180 persons attending and with the guest of honour being Alita van der Walt, editor of Farmer's Weekly.

The Royal Show carcass auction took place on Wednesday afternoon and following various objections in 2012, did not include goats. With an audience of well over 200, the presence of a meaningful (albeit not large) batch of buyers and good bids being achieved, the occasion again vindicated the Show's reputation for hosting the country's premier red meat event.

A new South African record price of R110 per kg for beef was achieved and whilst no record was broken in the case of lamb, at R475 per kg the auction saw the highest national price being achieved in 2013.

The Champion results were as follows:

<b>Beef Competition</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Breed</b>	<b>Price per Kg</b>	<b>Buyer</b>
Single Champion	98.97	R H Köhne	Simbra x Braford	R110	Crown Butchery, Durban
1 <sup>st</sup> Reserve Single Champion	98.20	Owen Sithole College of Agriculture	Bovelder	R50	Crown Butchery, Durban
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reserve Single Champion	97.58	Weston Agricultural College	Braford	R45	Crown Butchery, Durban
Champion Group	97.19	Cedara Agricultural College	Bovelder	R29	Pick 'n Pay, Ballito
<b>Lamb Competition</b>					
Single Champion Overall	94.88	G J L Lotter Snr	White Dorper	R475	Crown Butchery, Durban
Single Champion European Genetics	93.20	J C Roarty	Ile de France	R400	Crown Butchery, Durban
1 <sup>st</sup> Reserve Single Champion Overall	93.93	G J L Lotter Snr	White Dorper	R250	Crown Butchery, Durban
Champion Group	92.67	G J L Lotter Snr	White Dorper	R150	Kennedy Meat Market, Durban

For comparative purposes the ruling national prices for the week were R27 per kg in the case of beef and R43 per kg in the case of lamb; prices which indicate the perceived prestige of the Royal Show carcass competition.

Despite the positives and by way of a cautionary, there is a small but discernible contraction in entries, most notably in the dairy section, where as a result of factors beyond the Society's control, the inducement to participate in agricultural shows has waned in recent years. No alarm bells at this stage but a tendency that necessitates attention and no doubt some 'thinking out of the box' as we move into the future.

For the third time in 20 years, a cow broke loose from the cattle stalls and entered the main body of the showgrounds, causing an element of panic on the part of the public. Although the heifer in this instance did not come into contact with any individual, five persons sustained scratches and abrasions and one a broken arm as a result of trips and falls whilst hastily moving out of the way. In future, permanent barriers (of the type traditionally used on school days) will have to be erected.

## **POULTRY**

The Natal and Coast Poultry Club is the third largest in the country and 2013 saw an enjoyable and successful year for its members as well as the Society.

Entries achieved the 800 mark for the third consecutive year; this despite certain exhibitors scaling back for financial reasons.

Especially encouraging was the fact that of the 40 exhibitors, 6 were first timers.

Judges from Gauteng and the Cape officiated and by all accounts they were impressed with the quality.

Public interest was encouraging and a number of sales were recorded; this without diluting the efficacy of the exhibition as such.

Outside of the Royal, shows took place in August and April and these were enthusiastically supported.

## **BIRDS**

### **Pietermaritzburg Canary and Cage Bird Club**

The Pietermaritzburg Canary and Cage Bird Club had a successful year.

Membership increased by approximately 20% and with good attendance at the informative monthly meetings, the Club appears to be meeting the requirements of its stakeholders.

The 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Open Show held during the course of the Royal attracted over 950 birds and this, together with the well supported Young Bird Show held on 4 May, saw a number of out of province exhibitors participating.

### **Pietermaritzburg Budgerigar Club**

Although relatively low membership numbers are cause for concern, the Club had another successful year.

The Club staged a Provincial Budgerigar Show on behalf of the Budgerigar Society of South Africa during the first 3 days of the Royal Show.

The Bird Hall was shared with the Pietermaritzburg Canary and Cage Bird Club at this time and the varied exhibits – over 1200 in number – attracted significant public interest.

### **SA Fancy Pigeon Club**

The season commenced in April with a regional show which was held in the Society's Bird Hall and this was followed by the Royal which, with good entries and the enthusiasm of members, was deemed to have been a success.

## **RABBITS**

The Natal Rabbit Club enjoyed a successful year and following the model set locally, associations have also been formed in Gauteng and the Western Cape.

With an entry of close to 200 animals, essentially filling the hall and good public interest, the Show was deemed to have met expectations.

Pleasing sales of both rabbits and rabbit products were recorded and new members gained.

In addition to the Royal, monthly Sunday afternoon table shows were held from April to October which were well supported, as was the October Championship Show.

Membership of the club is increasing steadily with a number of newcomers being attracted from further afield.

## **HONEY**

With increased interest and the influx of new members, the KwaZulu-Natal Bee Farmers Association, custodians of the Honey Hall, have had a pleasing year.

Itinerant membership has long been a problem and by way of focusing on permanency in the longer term, the Association is committed to meeting the expectations with a full calendar of events and open days.

The Honey Hall has undergone a recent face lift drawing favourable comments being received from both the public as well as the judges overseeing the Royal and Sunday Tribune Garden Shows.

Although Royal Show entries were on a par with those of 2012 – an exciting year in its own right – there was unfortunately no out of province participation.

Efforts are still afoot to turn the Association's Royal Show participation into a national honey exhibition and although regional beekeeping bodies have understandably been a little reticent, they are slowly buying into the idea.

The sales of honey and other bee related products saw continued growth and at times demand outstripped supply.

Aside from the competitive aspect and sales, the Association has focused on disseminating information to the public with particular regard to the critical role bees play in mankind's survival. In this regard, the Royal and Sunday Tribune Garden Shows have proven to be superb conduits in facilitating the exercise.

## **EQUESTRIAN**

### **Royal Horse Festival – March 2013**

A successful multi discipline show for pony riders, juniors and adults was held over four days from 21 to 24 March. Entries were slightly down on last year due primarily to a number of riders being away for the long weekend.

Good potential for growth exists and planning has already commenced to repeat the event in 2014.

### **Royal Show**

With the focus being largely on younger riders, the equestrian section of the 2013 Royal Show met expectations.

The programme saw national jumping championships being held for ponies and the interesting courses, designed by Anne-Marie Esslinger, received praise from the riders.

The programme concluded with a two-day tent pegging competition with the national team competing against provincial sides. Events of this nature are spectator orientated and going forward the section is committed to including components that achieve this end.

On a slightly negative note and despite the condition of the main arena probably being the best for many years; in recent times the bar has been raised by riders internationally in terms of the minimal going requirements applicable to surfaces.

In the circumstance, it is improbable that the Royal will again meet the requirements of the new top order. This could only be achieved if the existing surface is altered to suit and thereafter becomes the sole domain of the equestrian fraternity. By virtue of the eclectic mix of Royal Show activities, this is highly unlikely.

Having said this, the Royal is committed to ensuring that the facility remains a venue of excellence where the focus going forward will probably remain on younger riders.

### **Royal Riding Club (RRC)**

Huge changes occurred both nationally and provincially in the horse world this year.

In line with other sports, the Department of Sports and Recreation requires equestrian activities to restructure in terms of a club model. As a result, it was decided by the RAS Equestrian Committee that the Royal Riding Club should be formed to give KZN Midlands riders a portal to enter the sport, in the Pietermaritzburg area.

Accordingly, the Royal Riding Club, based at the Showgrounds, was inaugurated and to date we have 36 members.

### **Museum of the Sport Horse**

The KwaZulu-Natal Horse Society (KZNHS) was disbanded at the end of July in line with the new South African Equestrian Federation structuring.

The KZNHS has been in existence for the past 61 years and over this period has accumulated memorabilia in the form of photos, trophies, news articles etc.

To house the collection, the RRC felt it would be fitting to establish a Sport Horse Museum in the downstairs office of the Equestrian Clubhouse and in the process create a permanent display for public interest. This would be open during the Royal Show, Garden Show and any horse festival.

It is planned to have the Museum up and running in early 2014.

### **CRAFTS & HOME INDUSTRIES**

Activities for this year crept up rather quietly and then gathered momentum as the closing date for entries drew near.

Entries were on a par with 2012 and again, most were received for the photographic section. Mr Leon Heyes received the Father Alston trophy for the most points in photography, and Dr Michael Howard, a first time exhibitor, won the 'best on show' depiction of a rhinoceros.

Mrs Ruth Aldridge was once again overall champion, with Mrs Una Taylor as runner up. A young lass from Ladysmith, Claire Tucker, was the junior champion. In the schools section, Westridge High and Wartburg Kirchdorf were the senior and junior champions, respectively. Cowies Hill/Pinetown Women's Institute was awarded the Mrs F K Lawson Shield for their hard work.

All sections – knitting, embroidery, needlework, crafts, quilts and woodwork – received entries which were outstanding.

Participation in the junior and schools sections is decreasing, whereas the veteran's section is steadily increasing.

2013 saw the Federation of Women's Institutes celebrating their 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in acknowledgement, a special honorary exhibit of tapestries, hand embroidered by ladies of the Women's Institute – depicting the early history of Natal – was on display.

As has become traditional, every effort is made to ensure a high standard of display and in 2013 the results thereof translated into the judges awarding the hall as a whole, a gold medallion and trophy for excellence and special endeavour, respectively. Certainly, an unexpected surprise.

### **SPONSORSHIP**

Whilst the Royal Agricultural Society of Natal is indebted to the numerous volunteers and donors who give so generously of their time and funding to ensure the success of both the Royal and Sunday Tribune Garden Shows (all of which are detailed on page 23); we are especially indebted to the 2013 corporate sponsors, viz Telkom, the Land Bank, ABI and the Sunday Tribune.

In addition, Standard Bank continued to contribute significantly to the Royal Show by way of being the premier sponsor of the livestock Supremes.

In appreciation to all who contribute to the Society's endeavours, the Monday evening of the Royal Show again hosted the annual Corporate Sponsor's Dinner with the guest of honour being the Editor of the Witness, Angela Quintal.

### **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

During the course of the year, Honorary Life Membership was granted to the following persons:

- Bert and Barbara Cornell - responsible for the public address system at the Showgrounds for many years with the 2013 Royal being his 39<sup>th</sup> Show. Together with Mrs Cornell they have been loyal stalwarts of the Society.
- Bob Mitchell - Mr Mitchell has been a steward and judge in the cattle and sheep sections for more than 35 years.
- Jacque Webb - associated with the cattle section for well over 30 years, Mrs Webb runs the cattle office during Shows, stewards for the Angus and Jersey Breeds, and oversees scholar and student participation.
- Brian van der Bank - involved in the livestock sections for more than 30 years, Mr van der Bank has throughout this period fulfilled stewarding duties and today heads the team.
- Kay Makan - having served 10 consecutive years on the Executive Committee.
- Mike Moncur - Honorary Life Vice President, on vacating his position as Vice President.

### **RASC**

The Society was represented at the RASC Biennial Conference in Zambia by Dr Stewart and Mark Stewart and Courtney Wood, being two Next Generation candidates.



## **2012 SUNDAY TRIBUNE GARDEN & LEISURE SHOW**

The 37<sup>th</sup> Sunday Tribune Garden & Leisure Show – to capitalise on the Heritage Day public holiday, a four instead of the usual three day event - took place during the course of the weekend 21 to 24 September.

The Show saw 20 152 members of the public attending against 15 534 in 2011. Although the weather was pleasant for much of the weekend, a cloud burst with 50mm of rain falling in 90 minutes early on the Saturday afternoon was sufficient to effectively close proceedings on the day; unfortunate, as this probably resulted in a loss of 2 500 feet through the door.

Save for a dearth of rose displays (owing to the International Rose Convention in Gauteng a week following the Show), the feedback was positive.

Acknowledged to be the largest horticultural event of its kind – modelled on the Chelsea concept – in the southern hemisphere; the Show saw 76 designer gardens, ranging from 160 sqm to 1 sqm in size.

Aside from a number of corporate participants, the occasion remains the showpiece for the Parks Departments of many of South Africa's municipalities and amongst others in 2012 these included Tshwane (Pretoria), Ethekewini (Durban), Msunduzi (Pietermaritzburg), Cape Town, Mbombela (Nelspruit), Ekurhuleni (Kempton Park), Mogale City (Krugersdorp), Kwadukuza (Stanger) and two newcomers, uMhlathuze (Richards Bay) and Khara Hais (Upington).

The theme was 'Out of my Paintbox', sufficiently non-restrictive to facilitate unfettered natural thinking whilst encouraging maximum use of colour.

Whilst the emphasis was specifically on inspirational feature gardens and the latest landscaping techniques, visitors were exposed to a wide range of ancillary horticultural exhibits, including but not limited to exotic plant material, indigenous displays and floral art as well as gardening equipment.

One of the many highlights is the Hall of Orchids and with an international array of exhibitors, this was a must-see for anyone interested in what is sometimes referred to as the 'perfect blossom'.

Internationally, 'green consciousness' continues to evolve and by way of initiation in the formative years; the Show again catered extensively for youth development via the inclusion of mini horticultural exhibits by school-going youngsters (many from rural areas), spanning grades 4 to 12. As has become the norm, lateral thinking and the quality of display continues to surprise.

For the enthusiastic gardener who does not aspire to being a technical expert, the Show catered for the design of 4 sqm gardens for individuals or groups, interested in displaying their talent in a relaxed but moderately competitive format.

All presentations were made at the Awards Cocktail Function on the Thursday evening, where the guest of honour was David Still, a respected environmentalist and Chairman of the Duzi-Umgeni Conservation Trust. The occasion also saw the presence of a number of senior Municipal representatives from around the country, including Chris Ndlela, the Mayor of Msunduzi, who formally welcomed his counterparts to the City. He also graciously agreed to present the awards.

Whilst the panel of judges, headed by Chelsea mentored Arthur Mennigke – whose criteria is based on international norms of excellence - felt that the standard was good, no feature garden of consequence received a mark exceeding 93%.

The only display achieving a higher score was that of the Cramond Garden Club with 98%. By virtue of this commendable but extraordinary feat, the judges felt that their 2mx2m exhibit deserved, above all others, a Gold with Laurel award, as well as the accolade of Best on Show.

Rightly or wrongly, this decision 'raised the eyebrows' of a few landscapers who felt that the dichotomy between macro and micro exhibits was sufficiently significant to warrant separate and dedicated adjudication. Going forward, these concerns will have to be addressed.

To complement the evaluation of the judges, the Society again sought the views of the visiting public and the respective results for the top 15 are tabulated below:

	<b>JUDGES CHOICE</b>	<b>PEOPLES CHOICE</b>
1	Cramond Garden Club	City of Cape Town
2	Sunday Tribune	Sunday Tribune
3	The Gardener Magazine	Midlands Rose Society
4	City of Cape Town	Cramond Garden Club
5	Ethekewini Municipality	Mogale City Municipality
6	Hilton Garden Club	Ethekewini Municipality
7	Midlands Rose Society	Ekurhuleni Municipality
8	Blackwoods Home of Gardening	The Gardener Magazine
9	Tshwane Municipality	Synergy Scapes
10	Ekurhuleni Municipality	Pot Pourri Garden Club
11	Pot Pourri Garden Club	Khara Hais Municipality
12	Mogale City Municipality	Royal Agricultural Society
13	Kokstad Garden Club	Tshwane Municipality
14	Royal Agricultural Society	Blackwoods Home of Gardening
15	Dowsett & Keough	Hilton Garden Club

The following additional awards were presented:

Best newcomer – Khara Hais Municipality

Most improved feature garden – Ekurhuleni Municipality

Best small feature garden on show – Northbury Park Secondary School

In her inimitable way, Tanya Visser compéred Ready Steady Plant; an interesting and entertaining competition demonstrating the ability of four teams to think 'out of the box' by designing and constructing a garden measuring 2x4m, utilising identical but undisclosed surprise material, in 20 minutes.

With the emphasis on fresh fruit and vegetables and the efficient utilisation of herbs, 1000 Hills Chef School (finalists in the SA Chef of the Year competition), conducted ongoing practical tutorials in the demonstration kitchen.

2012 for the first time saw the inclusion of a component focused on environmental issues relating to sustainability and the conservation of resources; this was choreographed under the banner of the Happy Earth Hall and the varied range of exhibits elicited significant interest.

Aside from horticulture and the green industry, Illovo Sugar has long been renowned for hosting the country's premier floral cake icing competition concurrently with the Show. This year there were close to 400 entries and whilst the most notable was a perfectly reproduced 2m Kapok tree in bloom, made entirely from sugar, all were deemed by the judges to be of an exceptionally high order.

A further feature introduced in 2012 took the form of a consumer exhibition showcasing the tourism attractions of the Province; this under the banner of Skal International, the respected association representing travel and tourism professionals.

The Quilters Guild participated with an outstanding exhibit of fine needlework talent.

The two external arenas saw a meaningful display of leisure activities focused on family interests, including caravans, archery, motor vehicles and a 4x4 course which saw a constant stream of spectators, especially after the rain. On the Saturday and Sunday these were complemented by dog agility championships and various canine demonstrations.

Also, the presence of the Karkloof Farmers' Market, deemed by many to be one of the premier artisanal markets in the Province added an interesting dimension to the final day of the Show.

Whilst anchored by horticulture and outstanding landscaped displays; the general mix of activities catered for most interest groups and afforded all visitors an enjoyable experience.

## **CONFERENCES, FUNCTIONS & EVENTS**

The use of the Society's facilities outside of Show periods continues to grow and during the year ended June 2013, the contribution of the cost centre to revenue increased by 19% to exceed R4M for the first time.

The Showgrounds' facilities are now utilised for an average of five functions each week catering for numbers ranging from 30 to 10 000.

Overall, the number of guests/delegates attending conferences and functions during the year now approximates 185 000. By all accounts, no other venue in the province exceeds this number.

Although the Society views every function as important, we are particularly pleased to have hosted – amongst others – the Opening of the Provincial Parliament, the UKZN Graduation Ceremony, the Premier's Freedom Day concert, the SASSA Registration process, the Mercedes Benz Truck Division Roadshow, the Oxford University Press conference and the Department of Health Nurses' Graduation.

In an effort to continually improve services on offer, the Society is committed to upgrade its facilities; the most notable recent development being the decision to air condition Halls 8 and 9.

## MEMBERSHIP

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Adults	1 486	1 446	1 296	1 313	1 652	1 735
Juniors	160	189	158	159	303	252
Life	86	85	81	84	90	102
Total	1 732	1 720	1 535	1 556	2 045	2 089

## OBITUARY

The Society regrets the passing of any member during the course of the year and very especially, that of David Wing, an Honorary Life President, and Dawn Meyer, the convenor of the Illovo Floral Icing section.

## ROYAL MEWS TRUST

The year was dominated by issues relating to the Dros restaurant, where the cumulative indebtedness of the proprietors, resulted in the Trust being compelled to foreclose in early February.

Although every effort was made to negotiate a manageable winding up process, the proprietors regrettably contested the Trust's right to liquidate, necessitating recourse to the high court with the case being scheduled for early August.

Despite a bad debt provision (in respect of the Dros) approximating R150 000, the Trust produced an acceptable set of results with pre-tax revenue – at R1 515 000 – being 24% up on that of 2012.

In a market which remains depressed, the challenge will be to locate an acceptable tenant to occupy the ex-restaurant facility and this endeavour has commenced.

As an aside, the Bank Park and the McDonald's Nursery precinct are operating acceptably and meeting all obligations.

## STAFF

The year saw the new staffing complement, manning the front office, settling in well and meeting expectations.

Similarly the grounds staff under the joint control of Roy Motilall and Dix Reddy, continue to fulfil their duties in a loyal and enthusiastic fashion and all indications point to relations between management and staff being on a sound footing.

## **OUTLOOK**

In line with the national economy, it is anticipated that operational conditions will remain difficult, necessitating continued prudence in all decision making, especially with regard to expenditure.

Further, we will continue in our endeavours to enhance the Society's credibility by making every effort to exceed expectations and maintain high service standards, in every facet of our operation.

Whilst the Society's agricultural roots remain pre-eminent, it should be noted, by way of a cautionary, that the increased costs confronting the farmer will inevitably result in the efficacy of participating in agricultural shows being re-assessed. Although the situation will be closely monitored, it may well necessitate some form of financial assistance going forward.

Fortunately the multiple nature of our activities and the fact that the Society has custodianship of its grounds, creates an element of flexibility whereby success in given areas can cross subsidise those components that are vulnerable, but no less valuable.

I wish to thank the members of the Society's Management and Executive Committees for their support, and also the numerous friends and volunteers who partner us in our endeavours.

I would also like to thank and compliment our CEO, Mr Strachan and his enthusiastic team – who are always willing to go the extra mile – not only for a job well done but for also producing the best set of results on record.

**MIKE MONCUR**  
**President**

## THE SOCIETY'S SPONSORS

**The Royal Agricultural Society of Natal  
is most grateful to the following individuals, companies and  
organisations for their generous sponsorship and support during the past year**

AAM	Lusso, Justin
ABI	Malanseuns
AFS Materials Handling	McDonald Stuart Landscapes
Agriwash	Meadow Feeds
ARC	Midlands Mascor
Barloworld	Msunduzi Municipality
Big Beat Productions	Parklane Spar
BKB	PMB Auto
Blackwood's Nursery	Pmb Chamber of Business
Booyens Refrigeration	Pope, Brett
CHC Caterers	Radio Hindvani
Daily News	Radio Sonder Grense
Dairy Maid Nestle	Reapers / Poldenvale
Dalton Abattoir	RPO
De Laval	SAMIC
Denvet	Standard Bank
East Coast Radio	Stud Book
Eqstra	Sunday Tribune
Farmer's Weekly	Telkom
First National Bank	The Gardener
FMS	The Mercury
Foton Tractors	Tomlinson Mnguni James
Garden & Home	Toyota Motors SA
Garden City Commercials	Ukhozi Fm
Illovo Sugar	University of KZN
Jacques Abattoir	Veepaas
Kay Makan	Vethouse
KZN Tourism	Voermol
Land Bank	Witness
Landbouweekblad	

## 2013 ROYAL SHOW

### RECIPIENTS OF MAJOR AWARDS

(Crafts and Home Industries Awards are listed within the Section Report)

#### PEDIGREE CATTLE

##### **The RAS Gold Cup**

*(Beef Bull Supreme Champion)*

Grey Brahman – Rian Maree, Richugo Brahmane

##### **The Sutherland Trophy**

*(Beef Bull Reserve Supreme Champion)*

Limousin – JC Steenkamp

##### **The RAS Gold Cup**

*(Beef Cow Supreme Champion)*

Black Angus - Andrew Masterson, Milagro

##### **The Meadow Feeds Trophy**

*(Beef Cow Reserve Supreme Champion)*

Red Angus – Piet Delport, Hide-A-Ways

##### **The RAS Gold Cup**

*(Dairy Supreme Champion)*

Jersey – JA Theron

##### **The John Simpson Memorial Trophy**

*(Dairy Reserve Supreme Champion)*

Jersey – J Jonsson

#### COMMERCIAL CATTLE

##### **Champion Commercial Animal on the Hoof**

Owen Sithole Agricultural College

##### **Champion Carcass**

RHK Brafords

#### PEDIGREE SHEEP

##### **The William Cooper & Nephews Floating Trophy**

*(Supreme Champion Ram)*

Ile de France – C J le Roux, Leandoux

##### **The Epol Trophy**

*(Supreme Champion Ewe)*

Suffolk – EA Engelbrecht, Arlilo Stoet

#### COMMERCIAL SHEEP

##### **Champion Lamb on the Hoof**

Hampshire Down – RJ Shorten, Rusda

##### **Champion Carcass**

Dorper – GJL Lotter (Snr)

## COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES

### **THE ROYAL COMMERCIAL FLOATING TROPHY**

*Best and most outstanding display in an exhibition Hall*

**Championing Safety & Security:**

*Including:*

1. **South African Police Service**
2. **The Department of Correctional Services**
3. **The National Prosecuting Authority**
4. **Safe City and Business Fighting Crime**
5. **The Department of Justice**

### **THE ROYAL INDUSTRIAL FLOATING TROPHY**

*Presented by the Society for the best and most outstanding display  
in an individual building*

**The University of KwaZulu Natal**

### **THE 'HULAMIN' FLOATING TROPHY**

*Presented for the best and most outstanding display on an open site*

**South African National Defence Force**

### **THE WESBANK TROPHY**

*Presented for the most outstanding motor industry display*

**Toyota SA Motors**

### **THE MERCURY TROPHY**

*Presented by the Mercury Newspaper for the best display in  
The Mercury Festival of Fine Living Hall*

**The Tea Merchant**

### **THE DAVID WING TROPHY**

*Presented by the Society for the best display of  
'light-duty' agricultural equipment*

**PMB Power Products**

### **THE PIETERMARITZBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT FLOATING TROPHY**

*Presented by the Chamber for the best display of  
'heavy-duty' agricultural equipment*

**Midlands Mascor**

### **THE RAS MATERIALS HANDLING & CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT TROPHY**

*Awarded for the best and most outstanding display of materials handling and  
construction equipment including heavy duty forestry machinery*

**Bell Equipment Sales SA Ltd**



**THE PIETERMARITZBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES FLOATING TROPHY**

*Awarded to the exhibitor who has the best South African industrial display*

**Action Refrigeration and Air Conditioning**

**THE PIETERMARITZBURG CHAMBER OF BUSINESS TROPHY**

*Awarded to a small business exhibitor*

**Hides of Africa**

**DIE PIETERMARITZBURG SAKEKAMER SHEILD**

*Awarded to the best display by an exhibitor who has not previously exhibited at the Royal Show*

**Blu Gel Hair Studio**

**THE PIETERMARITZBURG CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES AWARD**

*Presented by the PCCI for the most outstanding trade exhibit by a member of the private sector, based in the greater Pietermaritzburg area, promoting the exhibitor's products or services and promoting the prosperity and/or development of the greater Pietermaritzburg area*

**The Honey Hall**

**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY TROPHY**

*Awarded to the best display by a Government Department*  
**South African Police Service**

**THE TELKOM CUSTOMER CARE TROPHY**

*Awarded to the exhibitor who, by virtue of the warm and helpful receptiveness of the staff and their knowledge and ability to deal with queries, together with the availability of requisite information, provides the highest standard of customer care and service*

**CMH Datcentre Pietermaritzburg**

**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY TROPHY**

*Awarded for special endeavour*

**The Crafts and Home Industries Section**

**THE PRESIDENT'S TROPHY**

*Awarded for special endeavour*

**Weston Agricultural College**