



NEWSLETTER

of the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia



sacountryshows



South Australian Country Shows



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FEBRUARY SHOWS

- ANGASTON
- LUCINDALE

MARCH SHOWS

- MUNDULLA
- MANNUM
- TANUNDA
- MAITLAND
- MOUNT PLEASANT
- MOUNT BARKER
- KEITH & TINTINARA

IN THIS ISSUE

- YOUR 2026 EXECUTIVE
- AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS
- STATE COOKERY
- INNOVATION AWARD
- RURAL AMBASSADOR AWARD
- YOUNG JUDGES & PARADERS
- NATIONALS RESULTS
- GALA DINNER
- BECOMING AN AMBASSADOR
- GETTING TO KNOW EXECUTIVE
- GRANT NEWS
- DATES & CONTACT DETAILS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Agricultural Societies Council of SA was well attended on Friday 6th February 2026 at the Adelaide Showgrounds. Your 2026 Executive Committee was elected as follows:

President - Michael Scott

Senior Vice-President - Amanda Lock

Junior Vice-President - Julianne Wandel

Immediate Past President - Rosie Schultz

Executive Committee - Rhiannon Atkinson, Taryn Mangelsdorf, Nicholas Rodda, Nicholas Tremaine, Joshua Wiltshire.

Treasurer - Nathaniel Modra

Secretary - Kaye Butler for RAHS

Sub committee chairs:

Finance: Mr Michael Scott

Fundraising & Sponsorship: Mrs Amanda Lock

Publicity & Promotions: Mr Nic Tremaine

Functions & Annual Dinners: Mr Nic Rodda

Cookery Competitions: Mrs Julianne Wandel

Ambassador Awards: Ms Taryn Mangelsdorf

Young Judges: Mr Josh Wiltshire

Governance and Operational protocol: Mrs Amanda Lock

Additional Needs & Disability Engagement: Ms Rhiannon Atkinson



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

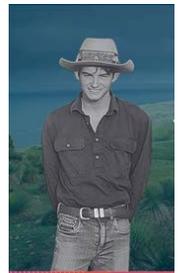
We are pleased to offer our congratulations to the following individuals and Country Shows that received Australia Day Awards.

Sharna Juett - Clare Show - Young citizen of the year
Nathan Lush - Yankalilla Show - Young citizen of the year
Hollie Preston - Eudunda Show - Young citizen of the year
Kaitlyn Woolford - Mt. Remarkable Agricultural Society Inc - Melrose Show - Young citizen of the year

Angaston Show - Community event of the year
Coonalpyn Show - Community event of the year
Kadina A,H&F Society - Community event of the year
Wilmington Agricultural Show - Community event of the year



Rex Liebelt - Order of Australia Medal



THANK YOU KEITH!

At the 2026 AGM, Life Member Keith Colyer stepped away from the position of ASCSA Treasurer and will be mentoring a new generation, as Nathaniel Modra takes the lead in this role.

The executive, along with all members of the Agricultural Societies Council of SA, take this opportunity to sincerely thank Keith for his many years as the Council's treasurer. His dedication to this position and enormous hours of volunteer work throughout every year has seen our organisation through many ups and downs, always leading with sound principles and carefully evaluated advice to the executive and council.

We wish Keith well and look forward to seeing him in a more relaxed role at many shows around the state. Thank you Keith.



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Michael supporting SA Country Shows in action



Michael & Francis Andrews receiving Life Membership to SA Country Shows in 2025, presented by Rosie Schultz

The Show Season has passed quickly for 2025, with most shows enjoying good weather and above average attendances. The 2025 Royal Show, which included all the National Competitions, was well attended. It involved a lot of extra work and some challenges along the way, but overall, it was very successful. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped in any way. It will be seven years before it is our turn again.

Congratulations to the Rural Ambassador for 2025-26, George Seppelt and all who won in the Young Judges and Paraders classes. Thank you also to the Next Generation members who have regularly helped run the Young Farmers Challenge, both at the Royal and many of the country shows. They have really perfected it!!

**The Young Rural Ambassador Award &
Rural Ambassador Awards are proudly sponsored by**



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SOUTH AUSTRALIA COOKERY CHAMPIONSHIPS

RICH FRUIT CAKE CHAMPIONSHIP

First:	Nanette Simpson	Northern
Second:	Erica Venning	Murray Lands
Third:	Emily Paltridge	S.E. & Border

Finalists: Carolyn Johnson, Emma Tiller, Vaughan Wilson, Nicholas Tremaine, Adrienne Bates, Robert Addison



ANGOVE
SINCE 1886
FAMILY WINEMAKERS



GENOA CAKE CHAMPIONSHIP

First:	Carolyn Johnson	Murray Lands
Second:	Nanette Simpson	Northern
Third:	Emily Buddle	Northern

Finalists: Emma Tiller, Emily Paltridge, Erica Venning, Gloria Buck, Nicholas Tremaine, Rosita Scragg



ANGOVE
SINCE 1886
FAMILY WINEMAKERS



LAUCKE SCONE CHAMPIONSHIP

First:	Tracey Page	Central
Second:	Suphaluck Ongchareon	Eyre Peninsula
Third:	Carol Houston	Kangaroo Island

Finalists: Marilyn Wardle, Christine Beelitz, Gloria Buck, Kiara Stacey, Sam Edwards, Danny Brumfield



CREATIVE NATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

First:	Rhiannon Atkinson	Central
Second:	Sharon Hannagan	Yorke Peninsula
Third:	Sally Fennell	S.E. & Border

Finalists: Maddie Zoanetti, Tammy Klitscher, Nanette Simpson, Kathy Dennis, Sharlene Noble



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SOUTH AUSTRALIA INNOVATION AWARDS

The aim of the Innovation Award is to encourage innovation in local show competitions providing a point of difference at Shows and recognising excellence.

The 2025 Innovation Award was awarded to

Winner: Keith & Tintinara Show REVVED Up representing SE of SA & Border Show Societies Association

1st Runner Up: Angaston Show representing the Central Districts Shows Association



A word from Keith & Tintinara Show....

We are honoured to receive the South Australian Country Shows 2025 Innovation Award

Our committee is incredibly proud to be recognised for creating a show that blends traditional and non-traditional attractions.

A huge thank you to the South Australian Country Shows Society for this award, which celebrates and encourages shows to think outside the box, embrace new ideas, and find innovative ways to run their events while engaging both local and wider communities.

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2025 RURAL AMBASSADOR AWARD STATE FINALS



SOUTH AUSTRALIA RURAL AMBASSADOR AWARD



The Rural Ambassador Award State Final was held at the Royal Adelaide Show from Friday 30 August to Tuesday 2 September.

2025 saw a full contingent of Rural Ambassadors. Jacqueline Palk representing Central, Rebecca Clifford representing the Eyre Peninsula, Thomas Wurfel representing the Murray Lands, Ashlee Allegretto & George Seppelt representing Northern, Emma Gallagher & Shona Lauke representing South East & Border, Caitlin Marshall representing Southern and Jenevieve Heinrich representing the Yorke Peninsula.

The state finalists participated in a public speaking and media training workshop with Annabelle Homer from "Voice It", before attending the State Championships for the Cookery competitions in the afternoon. They then spent three days at the Royal Adelaide Show, visiting a number of attractions and competitive sections, meeting new people and taking home a wealth of ideas and information to put back into their local areas and shows.

On Tuesday the 2nd of September they were interviewed by a judging panel before their on stage interview at the Annual Awards Dinner.



A WORD FROM OUR WINNER

As the 2025 Rural Ambassador, I was proud to stand alongside an exceptional group of finalists whose passion for their communities was on full display throughout our time at the Adelaide Show. From the moment we arrived, the atmosphere was alive with excitement and camaraderie. Together, we visited livestock pavilions, met with exhibitors, and engaged with young people eager to learn about opportunities in agriculture. Each finalist brought a unique perspective, from innovative farm management and sustainability initiatives to deep community involvement. It was inspiring to see how strongly they represented their home regions. Our days were filled with conversations, judging commitments, and public engagements that highlighted the strength, diversity, and resilience of rural South Australia.

Beyond the formal duties, the show gave us a chance to connect with one another and share stories of the challenges and triumphs of rural life. We toured displays, met industry leaders, and attended official events that celebrated the vital role of primary industries in our state. The enthusiasm from the public reminded us just how valued rural communities are. By the end of the show, we had not only showcased our regions but also built lifelong friendships and strengthened our shared commitment to supporting and promoting rural South Australia. It was an unforgettable experience that reflected the heart of the Rural Ambassador program: leadership, community spirit, and pride in where we come from.

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YOUNG JUDGES AND PARADERS AT THE 2025 ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

The 2025 Royal Adelaide Show hosted the State Young Judges and Paraders Competitions over six exciting days, with competitors from across South Australia vying for the coveted Champion titles and the opportunity to represent the state at the 2026 National Finals at the Ekka.

This year's competitions once again showcased the outstanding talent, dedication, and enthusiasm of our young agricultural leaders. Participation continues to grow, with particularly strong numbers in the Merino Fleece and Merino Sheep Young Judges sections. The increasing involvement of secondary school competitors has seen these classes swell to more than 170 entrants, reflecting the ongoing passion for the wool and sheep industries among the next generation.

The Beef Paraders and Young Judges competitions also saw impressive growth, with strong heats in the paraders competitions and high-quality presentation across all age groups. Competitors in Young judges demonstrated excellent animal observation skills, industry knowledge, and professionalism, making judging a challenging task for official over Judge on the day.

The Dairy Cattle Paraders and Young judges section continued to strengthen, with a noticeable increase in both participation and skill level. Competitors displayed excellent handling techniques and a deep understanding of dairy cattle presentation, impressing judges and spectators alike. The commitment shown by competitors, particularly those from dairy regions, highlights the importance of nurturing skills and passion within the dairy industry.

Young poultry enthusiasts never disappoint with the highly contested Young Judges. Great to see the new competitors and first timers in the place getters.

Meanwhile, the Grain Young Judges competition continues to develop as one of the fastest-growing sections. This competition provides participants with a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of grain quality, classification, and yield. The enthusiasm shown by competitors in this area demonstrates the increasing recognition of cropping and grain production as vital components of South Australian agriculture.

The Meat Sheep Young Judges has a steady stream of enthusiastic young stud breeders competing, a change of day for the competition would more than likely boost the entrant numbers as seen in other competitions. Quality of Young Meat Sheep judges is always consistent within the South Australian young sheep breeders.

Across all sections — from Merino and Beef to Dairy, Grain, Stud Sheep, and Prime Lamb — the standard of competition highlighted the depth of agricultural talent emerging from regional and rural communities. These young people not only represent the future of our industry but also exemplify the teamwork, dedication, and leadership that underpin the success of South Australian agriculture.



Congratulations to all competitors, place getters, and champions who took part in this year's events.

Special recognition goes to:

- Gwendolyn Van Zwol , Champion Merino Fleece Young Judge
 - Ryan Philp, Champion Merino Sheep Young Judge
- Laura Sagasser, Champion Beef Parader. Maddison Hann, State Representative
- Emily Hann, Champion Beef Cattle Young Judge Oliver Baker, State Representative
 - Wil Phillpott, Champion Dairy Cattle Young Judge
- Anna Dixon, Champion Dairy Cattle Handler. Chris Thompson, State Representative
 - Lucy Lock, Champion Poultry Young Judge. Ruth Johnson, State Representative
 - Charlotte Chambers, Champion Grain Young Judge
 - Charlotte Poker, Champion Meat Sheep Young Judge

We extend our thanks to all sponsors, stewards, and volunteers who made the competitions possible, as well as the families, schools, and mentors who continue to encourage participation.

Looking ahead, preparations are already underway for the 2026 Royal Adelaide Show and the 2026 National Finals at the Ekka, where our state representatives will showcase their skills on the national stage. Any competitors or schools interested in becoming involved in the Young Judges and Paraders programs are encouraged to contact SA Country Shows or visit the website for further information.

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NATIONAL RURAL AMBASSADOR AWARD FINAL

During the 2025 Royal Adelaide Show, SA Country Shows and the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA (RA&HS of SA), were proud to host the National Rural Ambassador Award Final, along with Agricultural Shows Australia.

The seven national finalists were:

- Caitlin Grieve (VIC)
- Dylan Bellchambers (TAS)
- Thea Walker (WA)
- Stephanie Laycock (QLD)
- Grace Collins (NSW)
- Kayla Starkey (SA)
- Dakota Gough (NT)



They were terrific ambassadors for their respective states and territory, and spent 3 days participating in activities which included a tour of the RM Williams store and museum, a Voice It training session on communication and media skills and a networking function.

At the Royal Adelaide Show the finalists experienced a behind the scenes tour visiting various sections, meeting with stakeholders and organisers, and enjoyed the view of the showground and beyond from the Goyder Pavilion rooftop.

Interviews were conducted on Friday 5 September and the judging panel comprised of:

Samantha Neumann, a past SA Rural Ambassador first runner up, and Youth Councillor at the RA&HS of SA & Next Gen Executive member, who works at Thomas Foods International.

Belinda Cay, a Grains and Fodder Councillor with the RA&HS of SA who has held positions on their Board of Management and was Deputy Chair. Belinda is an owner and director of AgCommunicators, a specialist communication and education consultancy.

Angus Blair, CEO of Lawson Grains, one of Australia's leading corporate farmers with a collective 120,000ha across 11 aggregations in NSW and WA, and an advocate for regional development and community engagement.

David Jochinke was the President of the National Farmers' Federation and is a third-generation grain and livestock farmer from Murra Warra in North West Victoria. Through programs like the Rural Ambassador Award, David has actively encouraged young people to step into leadership roles, engage with their communities, and contribute to the prosperity.

A gala dinner held on Friday evening at The Arkaba Hotel celebrated the achievements of the National Rural Ambassadors and their contributions to their shows, communities and places of employment.

The title of 2025 National Rural Ambassador Award Winner was awarded to Grace Collins representing NSW and runner up was Thea Walker from WA.

Congratulations to all of the finalists for their accomplishments and conduct, and thank you to ASA National Finals Coordinator Heather Earney and Jacqueline Francis, for their time and effort in organising the finals, and to everyone else behind the scenes who assisted with the program delivery.

Peter Angus
Chairperson
National Rural Ambassador Working Group



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NATIONAL GALA DINNER

It was a wonderful night celebrating the Agricultural Shows Australia National Rural Ambassador Award finalists at the National Gala Dinner.

Thank you to all the members of the South Australian Country Shows Family who came along and supported our 2024 State Rural Ambassador Kayla Starkey.

The winner of the National ASA Rural Ambassador competition was Grace Collins from NSW.
The runner-up was Thea Walker from WA.



PLEASE EMAIL PHOTOS FROM YOUR SHOW OR EVENTS
FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO SACOUNTRYSHOWS@OUTLOOK.COM.AU

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HOW TO BECOME A YOUNG RURAL OR RURAL AMBASSADOR

Do you want to be a **Young Rural or Rural Ambassador**?
Do you know someone who would make a great
Young Rural or Rural Ambassador?

It's easy!

Step 1

- Volunteer at your local show and speak to the Show secretary, president or ambassador convenor about your interest in the program.
- Check out the SA Country Shows website for detailed information on the Awards.

Step 2

- Become your local Show's Young Rural (16-19yrs) or Rural Ambassador (20-30yrs). Enter the program that matches your age group.

You will need to:

- complete an entry form (from the SA Country Shows website)
- submit your CV (resume)
- attach a cover letter explaining the reasons why you would make a great Young Rural or Rural Ambassador

Step 3

- On being named your local Show's Young Rural or Rural Ambassador, you will move on to be judged at Association level. There are 7 show associations across South Australia.
- All show ambassadors from your local Association will come together and be interviewed by a panel of judges.
- Winners will be selected and move on to the state final competition in Adelaide.

GETTING TO KNOW THE EXECUTIVE



Name: Nicholas Tremaine

Committee Position: Executive member, show stand coordinator

Home Show: Parndana

Show and Association Positions: Show President

Background: Born on KI, background in farming and market gardening

Favourite food: Chocolate

Pet peeve: Tardiness

Favourite thing to do at a country show: Entering Cookery sections

Areas I can help with at a show: Convening, treasurer, computer data input, any set up/pack down needs, most jobs I will give a go, anything to get a show to run smoothly

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GRANTS NEWS

Congratulations to the following shows who were successful in receiving the 2025 Nutrien Ag Solutions community grant -



Keith & Tintinara District Show Society Inc

Mount Gambier Agricultural & Horticultural Society Inc

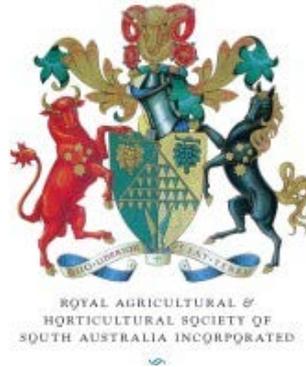
Pinnaroo Agricultural Society Inc

THANKYOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Promoting and Supporting education in all fields of agriculture and horticulture.

Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA Inc



The RA&HS contributes to the promotion and success of South Australia's primary industry through the staging of events and the rewarding of excellence.

2026 SHOW CALENDAR



Scan me!



A PDF OF THE CURRENT SHOW CALENDAR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 17 July
Symposium

Friday 17 July
Youth Presentation Dinner

Saturday 18 July
Annual Awards Dinner bookings open

Friday 7 August
Delegates meeting

Friday 4 September
Cookery Competitions State Finals

Sat 5 September - Sun 13 September
Royal Adelaide Show

Tuesday 8 September
Annual Awards Dinner

Friday 20 November
Executive meeting

ASSOCIATION AMBASSADOR COORDINATORS CONTACTS

Youth Competitions Coordinator

youthcompetitions@sacountryshows.com

Central Districts Shows Association

cdsa.ambassadorcoordinator@gmail.com

South East of SA & Border Show Societies Association

sebssaambassadorcoordinator@gmail.com

Northern Agricultural Shows Association of SA

nasaambassadorcoordinator@gmail.com

Eyre Peninsula Shows Association

epsa.ambassadorcoordinator@gmail.com

Murray Lands Shows Association

mlasa.ambassadorcoordinator@gmail.com

Southern Country Shows Association

scsaambassadorcoordinator@gmail.com

Yorke Peninsula Shows Association

ypsaambassadorcoordinator@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

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[cgsashows@gmail.com](mailto:cdsashows@gmail.com)

Eyre Peninsula Shows Association

yallundaflatshow@gmail.com

Kangaroo Island Shows Association

nictremaine91@gmail.com

Murray Lands Agricultural Shows Association

mlands610@gmail.com

Northern Agricultural Shows Association of SA

nasasecretary1@gmail.com

SE of SA & Border Show Societies Association

sebordershows@gmail.com

Southern Country Shows Association

scsaexec@gmail.com

Yorke Peninsula Shows Association

yppshowsassociation@outlook.com

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Senior Vice President

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Junior Vice President

Mrs Julianne Wandel
0429 098 526



Immediate Past President

Mrs Rosie Schultz
0408 083 622



Secretariat

Mrs Kaye Butler
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kbutler@adelaideshowground.com.au

Please email news from your Show and Association for the newsletter to sacountryshows@outlook.com.au

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