

CLUNES & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

TIMELINE

To commemorate our 160th Show, this timeline has been developed by Robert Campbell, identifying a highlight for each year since the first ploughing match in 1858

1858	Glendaruel Agricultural Society holds its first Ploughing Match on Mr Wright's property.
1859	The next Ploughing Match was held on Mr Grenfell's Tourello farm.
1860	Showyard at Glendaruel gazetted for the Society's use. Grain Show held by Society at Coghill's Creek.
1860	At the Ploughing dinner a Ballarat judge states "an effort is now being made to induce the Glendaruel Agricultural Society to amalgamate with that of Ballarat."
1861	First Show held at Clunes.
1862	The Ploughing Match attracted more than 500 spectators.
1863	First Show held at present showgrounds, which had been recently gazetted.
1864	At annual dinner, Chairman Mr Dick said "I am an advocate for amalgamating the whole of the Agricultural Societies in the district so that one good annual Show could be had."
1864	Society's name changes to "Glendaruel, Beckwith and Clunes Agricultural Society".
1865	St John's Anglican Church hired the grounds for an "evening tea meeting".
1866	One prize winner requested that his "prize money" be donated to the Creswick District Hospital.
1867	The Society held two shows that year, one in the Autumn (March) and another in the Spring (October). From then on it was always in the Spring show.
1868	The Society was in a perilous financial position because the Government failed to pay its usual "Grant in Aid".
1869	Thirty ploughs were working in the same field at the annual Ploughing match.
1870	The Show is a two day event 23 rd and 24 th of November.
1871	It was a very wet showday, with patrons being ankle deep in mud.
1872	Another name change - "Glendaruel, Beckworth, Clunes, Eglinton and Glengower Agricultural Society".
1873	A prize was awarded for "the farm servant longest in the employ of one master". Won by James Grant who had served 18 years.
1874	Ballarat Society moves that Ballarat, Smeaton, and Clunes societies amalgamate.
1875	A winning sample of oats at Clunes, also won first prize at the Vienna Exhibition.
1876	The Clunes Brass Band and the State School Drummers and pipers provided the music.
1877	One exhibitor gained prizes for Draught Horses, Bloodstock, Thoroughbreds, Hereford Cattle, Large Breed Swine and Merino Ewes and Wethers.
1878	Thought that either the Society takes steps to enlarge the grounds or obtain a fresh site.
1879	Clunes Society hosts Grand National Show. It was held over two days.
1880	A exhibition of reaping and binding machines was held on Mr Crichton's farm at Ascot, and was viewed but many interested farmers.
1881	Talbot Society approaches the Clunes Society with a view to amalgamation.

1882	One family had a great day! They gained many prizes, Mr with his draught horses, 2 yr filly, 1 yr old horse, and fancy pony. Mrs, bread, pickles & sauces, and dries herbs.
1883	Field trial of Reapers and Binders causes great interest.
1884	As the Show was at that time held on the Prince of Wales birthday, 9th November, and that was a Sunday, it was shifted to Monday the 10th.
1885	Clunes and Talbot Societies combine to become "The Clunes and Talbot United Agricultural Society".
1885	Grand National Show conducted at Talbot. It was a two day event.
1886	Again a two day event, this time held at Clunes.
1887	Show day dawned with a heavy thunderstorm with showers to follow, yet the crowd was estimated at 3000 by mid afternoon.
1888	Violent wind storm causes chaos at Show.
1889	The Maryborough Band and the Life Boat Band provided musical entertainment.
1890	Over 1000 entries are shown.
1891	Crowds were down owing to the "influenza epidemic".
1892	Show held at Clunes. One class in the Flowers and Plants section was 42 varieties of cut flowers. Imagine the room that would have taken to display.
1893	Annual Meeting adjourns through lack of a quorum.
1894	Finances were not great, finishing the year with a £40 (\$80) debit balance at the bank.
1895	"Clunes and Talbot United Society" dissolves through lack of interest from the Talbot community.
1895	Society again renamed to "Clunes, Coghill's Creek, Beckworth and Eglinton Agricultural Society".
1896	L R and J R Carter took all the prizes in the sheep section, by exhibiting more than 35 animals.
1897	Because of a severe drought, lengthy discussion took place as to whether to hold a show or not.
1898	A verbal altercation took place during the showday luncheon, between a vice-president and a visiting parliamentarian.
1899	"Why should the Show continue?" is the cry after the Annual Meeting was adjourned through lack of support. Forty gentlemen attended the reconvened meeting.
1900	Show date postponed because of government election on desired date.
1901	The display of machinery was exceptional because Melbourne exhibitors were now allowed to display their implements at more country shows.
1902	The President thought the show was very good considering the ongoing drought which prevailed.
1903	There were 21 prize takers in the Draught Stock classes.
1904	Swine fever restrictions were lifted allowing more entries to come forward in this section.
1905	Complaints of pilfering of Dairy Produce exhibits, it was thought that someone should be on guard during the latter part of the day.
1906	The Government subsidy was again lowered with the condition the Society run Agricultural Classes, It was thought "young men would not be interested".
1907	A dust storm and early shower had a detrimental effect on the gate takings.
1908	Because of drought, a vote was taken as to the holding of a Show, 14 for, 10 against.
1909	Sixty draught horses, twelve trotting horses, one hundred poultry and fifty dogs were exhibited on show day.
1910	Daylesford attempts to form a group of district Show Societies.

1911	Society revitalised by major building projects. New homecrafts pavilion, luncheon room, bar and secretary's office.
1912	First attempt at forming any type of "Ladies Committee", it was another 52 years before a fully constituted committee came into force in 1964. .
1913	Included in the entries in the blood stock section were exhibitors from Rochester, Birchip and Lancefield.
1914	Minor change to the sheep section; all Lincoln and Leicester exhibits were to be shorn after 1 st September in that year.
1915	Because of drought and the country at war the Show is cancelled.
1916	Show reinstated.
1917	Members' tickets privileges allowed admission of wives and families, it also carried a luncheon ticket, and all entries were free.
1918	J R Carter elected President, a position he holds for 25 years.
1919	The increased entries in the poultry section (over 150 entered) was so marked that an extra 30 cages had to be borrowed from the Maryborough society.
1920	Back to Clunes held on Show week, swells the crowd.
1921	Winners of the Fat Lamb section were export to England. They showed great credit to the breeders of these lambs.
1922	10 Vice Presidents were elected at the Annual Meeting
1923	Bendigo Society floats proposal to form "Country Agricultural Societies Association"
1924	Decided that the Grand Parade be held at 3 pm.
1925	The High Jumping competition (first held by Clunes for very many years) was won by "Young Highlander", ridden by L Heenan. The height jumped was 6ft 7ins.
1926	Trees planted in William Street.
1927	It was stated that Mr J R Carter was the greatest asset the Clunes Society has.
1928	Wool pavilion erected to better accommodate the wool exhibits.
1929	A section for Persian Cats was added. The "Better Farming" train visited Clunes, lectures and demonstrations were given by experts.
1930	Society purchases adjoining block of land.
1931	The Show that year was thought to be a successful with receipts of £489 (\$978) and expenditure of £482 (\$964).
1932	1640 exhibits come forward.
1933	Improvements that year:-16 new pig pens and 50 dog pens were erected. Labour and materials cost £22 (\$44).
1934	Horse arena extended and graded.
1935	The Beaurepaire Cup for the best group of three dairy cattle was won by the Ballarat Orphanage. Mr T King installed loud speakers around the arena.
1936	Mr A Williams, of Tanwood, had a successful day, he won cups for: Best ram in the show; Most valuable fleece in the show; Most points in sheep & wool classes.
1937	Crowd control an issue, requires plain clothes and uniformed police on showday.
1938	More than 100 fleeces were exhibited. The judge, Mr McDonald of Geelong, stated "he had never seen a better collection of wool exhibited"
1939	Society's financial position a matter for concern.
1940	It was thought entries and attendances were surprisingly good, considering there had been no Ballarat show, the country was at war and petrol restrictions prevailed.

1941	L Willox, of Orange N.S.W. gave a display of trick riding. Including jumping over hurdles with two horses, which he rode standing with a foot on each saddle.
1942	Show cancelled as Australia was at war.
1943	Mr J R Carter passed away while still President, a position he had held for 25 years. A Gymkhana was held instead of a Show.
1944	A Gymkhana was again held, a highlight of the day was the "Draught horse race" which was won by Miss Beth Pickford.
1945	Vandalism of windows in Luncheon Room reported to Police.
1946	The 1946 show was the first "Show" held in the post war period. The grand parade was a sight not seen at a one-day show for many years.
1947	Prize takers: Best boy rider 14 years and under, Mac Fawcett; Best lady rider, Beth Fawcett; Novice Flag race won by Jock McLennan.
1948	Members thought the show would be a greater success if held on a Saturday. From that year it has been held on third Saturday in November.
1949	President suggests that as finances have improved there should be an increase in prize money.
1950	Carter Brothers, Loris and Jack donated the "J R Carter Memorial Cup" to be awarded to the best equestrienne. This sponsorship continued for the next 30 years.
1951	Society officially leases part of Victoria Street.
1952	Society affiliated with the K.C.C. (Kennel Control Council), in the hope that they would attract more dog entries to the show.
1953	Renewed interest was shown at the annual meeting with 18 gentlemen turning up, and 6 apologising. A few years earlier it had to be adjourned through lack of numbers.
1954	A very wet Show with torrential rains falling throughout the day.
1955	It was agreed to lease part of Rogers' block, in Bath Street, and request to have an option to purchase this block if it was ever for sale.
1956	Goat sections were first introduced into the schedule, and have created much interest at the show since that date.
1957	The Sun Showgirl competition was first introduced that year, it was a great crowd pleaser. The winner in that first year was local entrant, 16 year old, Elaine Bliss.
1958	The sideshows that year included a merry-go-round, ocean wave, and miniature railway.
1959	The "Central Highlands Association of Agricultural Societies" is formed around Ballarat.
1960	From this time all fleeces had to be at the show grounds by 12 noon on the Friday, This allowed stewards time to prepare and display the fleeces properly.
1961	Mr F O (Ord) Whitcroft made his first appearance as a judge in the woolroom. This association continued as a judge for over 20 years, and a trophy is still awarded in his name .
1962	The <i>Ballarat Courier</i> states that the "Clunes Society was making a bold flutter before folding up."
1963	Several new events were conducted: Broom Throw Comp; Wood Chop; Tyre Change Comp.
1964	Ladies Committee is formed to oversee the running of the Homecraft and Show Girl areas.
1964	"Midlands Group" of Agricultural Societies is formed.
1965	Society title changes to "Clunes and District Agricultural Society."
1966	Pine tree removed from centre of Show arena.
1967	This was the driest year on record in the Clunes district with less than 11 inches of rain falling during the year.
1968	"Miranda" of the Weekly Times attended the show as judge of the Show Girl competitions that year.
1969	New Stud Stock pavilion was erected. Now used as the Cattle pavilion.

1970	Miss Elizabeth Lowne, Clunes showgirl winner, who was chosen as Miss Midlands, and then represented the Group at the Royal Melbourne Show.
1971	Mrs Inez Maher took on the position of Entry Secretary, this was a great help to the administrative secretary Tom Wickham.
1972	Mr Balderstone, Royal Agricultural Society councilor officially opens the Show.
1973	The showgrounds was the venue for a successful white elephant sale organised by the Clunes Tourist and Development Association to aid their funds.
1974	Victorian Railways put on a display of working model trains to commemorate the centenary of the opening of the Clunes section of the rail line in November 1874.
1975	Sky Divers attempt to land in Show arena on showday.
1976	More than a thousand entries in the horse events, a record, but there was only one exhibitor in the cattle section, G Swift of Gordon, who displayed his Jerseys.
1977	Sir Henry Winneke, Governor of Victoria, officially opens the Show.
1978	In September, show grounds was venue for the "James Esmond Folk Festival". In early December, C.T.D.A. hosted the "Victorian Concert Orchestra".
1979	The most valuable fleece was exhibited by G Kerr, it weighed 12.6 kgs and was valued at \$34.27.
1980	Fraser Bros won Australasian Champion Lambs wool with fleeces firstly exhibited at the Clunes Show.
1981	The <i>Ballarat Courier</i> states "The Clunes Show is an old fashioned example of full community participation."
1982	"The Clunes Show can't be beat for a great fun day for all the family." the <i>Ballarat Courier</i> reports.
1983	The <i>Ballarat Courier</i> in its report of the show said, "It may not be the biggest or the most sophisticated but the Clunes Show gets full marks for friendliness."
1984	Renovations and improvements were made to the kitchen to make it clean and tidy and bring it up to an acceptable health standard.
1985	New skillion shed erected adjacent to wool room to house 4 tooth wethers.
1986	A purpose built trailer was constructed to store and transport the societies jumps equipment. It made the job of constructing the jumps more convenient.
1987	Large building erected to house Stud Sheep, between Hall of Progress and the Wool Room.
1988	Pigeons sections were added to the schedule. Charles Fenton produced a details map of the showgrounds which made planning easier.
1989	Homecrafts pavilion replaced with wider and brighter building.
1990	Alpacas were displayed at the show, and a professional gave a demonstration of the dying art of "Rabbit trap setting".
1991	The arena was ploughed, leveled, and sown down to grass by members.
1992	Very wet showday. Many vehicles bogged and attractions cancelled.
1993	There were 105 rose exhibits which made a tremendous display.
1994	A "Speed Knitting" competition was introduced, it was well excepted with 10 entrants taking part. It was won by Isabel Hill.
1995	New pavilion constructed adjacent to Secretary's office, for trade displays and stock exhibits.
1996	Fraser Bros fleece was judged "Champion Fleece of the Show' at the final Geelong Legacy Fleece Show.
1997	Poultry sheds were replaced.
1998	Clunes Show was awarded "Community Event of the Year" within in the Hepburn Shire.
1999	Parking in the grounds for patrons was discontinued.

2000	Heritage theme for 140th Show. Wool and Wine Night was presented in the Clunes Town Hall, It was successful both socially and financially.
2001	Pavilion erected to house goats at southern end of grounds.
2002	Ned Kelly film was produced in Clunes with the showgrounds being used to prepare sets etc.
2003	Showjumping on showday was discontinued as we clashed with the Victorian Championships.
2004	Helen Roscholler becomes first woman to be elected as President of the Society.
2005	Committee members decided to all wear matching apple green shirts. It looked very professional.
2006	New wool room and sheep shed constructed.
2007	Major building projects completed eg. Rotunda.
2008	Wellbeing was a high priority, with a Men's Health night, a Women's Health night, and a Sustainable Farming Families program being held during the year.
2009	Catering for "Booktown" dinner involving both committees. Machinery auction held at show grounds.
2010	This marked our 150th show. A history of written and launched at a dinner. The Victorian Governor, Dr David de Kretser opened the show and unveiled a plaque.
2011	A new PA system was purchased, and wiring installed around the grounds to save hiring and assist setup each year.
2012	Ford racing simulator proved a popular attraction
2013	More PA systems were installed for cattle sheep and rotunda due to the success of the 2011 main one
2014	Purchased adjoining house and land to increase showgrounds area.
2015	Footy Club big screen was used for information display during the day and music videos in the evening.
2016	Sold off house to help pay off new land
2017	Removed several pine trees that were becoming unsafe
2018	Show grounds and committee hosted "Bushy's Cutout" to support the Hill family after Tony's MND diagnosis
2019	Arena fence realigned and 1st food pavilion erected
2020	Show cancelled due to COVID 19
2021	2nd food pavilion constructed. Show again cancelled
2022	New toilet block completed