

Toodyay Agricultural Society

Alison Wroth – Chief Steward

Nearly half of the year is over, so things have well and truly picked up speed on our Committee in efforts to get all events planned for this year achieved in style.

Our May Stall held last weekend in the weather that made all farmers happy, was well supported and many raffle winners took off the prizes of a Pressure pump, Lady Williams Apple Tree, 10 Square Hay bales and 10 bags of Sheep Manure. All prizes were donated by Committee members; apart from the Pressure pump which was donated by a Sponsor of the Show; *REECE Plumbing*. This was a real coup, so thank you to REECE Plumbing and congratulations to all winners.

First off the rank is Toodyay hosting the RAS Central Group Rural Ambassador Award at the Old Gaol Museum precinct on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July. We have a most worthy entrant, a young 30-year-old farmer, Edward Ludemann, son of Sue & Geoff Ludemann who is keen to represent the Toodyay Ag Society and Toodyay community in this Royal Agricultural Society national competition. Edward is a natural born leader and coming from a farming background and having life experience, he is a wonderful young man who will give the other entrants a run for their money. Our heartfelt thanks go to Edward for participating in this award and we are so proud that he is representing our Ag Society and the Toodyay/Bolgart area. We will be looking forward to July to see how the day turns out and if any of Edwards friends and family members are interested in supporting him on the day, please advise us by the 23<sup>rd</sup> June for catering reasons.

Next is our annual Exhibitors Workshop which is to be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August. This will be a “**remember this date**” event. Featuring the skills of well known **Floriculture** Judge Keith Robinson to begin the day, the event will also include qualified judges teaching skills in the sections of **Needlework which includes Knitting, Crochet & Sewing**. They will advise all who attend what the judge looks for in a prize-winning entry and give great tips throughout the day. The final section after lunch **is Patchwork & Quilting** where the Show Judge from last year is keen as mustard to return (with her own quilts) and take quilts apart in front of the attendees to explain what a quilt and patchwork exhibit should look like and how to encourage people to enter these classes. The times and promotion of this event will go up on posters around town and in social media on our FB page and website. Please keep an eye out, this event will be better than last year I believe, due to the flowers available and the Patchwork & Quilting section. Spread the work to all the craft groups as I am. The more the merrier as it is just a \$2 donation with Morning tea and light lunch available during the day until close.

Owing to the donation by the Op Shop of \$2000, we are continuing maintenance of our main Exhibition Hall, the Lee Steere Pavilion with improvements to the Cookery Section, bracing benches in Needlework and better lighting. Without local support like this, we would be unable to continue to maintain our buildings to the proper “Show Standard”. The Wool Shed is also getting an overhaul this year, to the walls and benches; this will be beneficial with the flow of traffic through the new exhibits.

Our heartfelt thanks go to CSBP, Vernice, Toodyay Op Shop, Deepdale Farm and Morgan Feed Supplies who have come on board early to support the Toodyay Show for this year. With luck we will gain a few larger sponsors to support the Fireworks at night and our Entertainment section.

I will be promoting sections next issue and getting a bit of motivation out there to exhibit. Excellent new classes in every section, apart from the Cattle and Sheep which faces a lack of support from surrounding producers. We might have to reduce the competition in these areas to display only with any farmer willing to support us. There is no question, we need to keep livestock at the Toodyay Show.