

PARKES PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL

ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

“OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS”

1879	Association formed at a meeting held in the Commercial Hotel on 20 th September.
1880	First show held on 19 th February.
1881	Grant of 10 acres for showground. First show held on own grounds on 23 rd February.
1884	Special Government grant of £100 to improve grounds.
1885	2 shows held - February & August.
1889	August show attendance of 2,000 for the first day and 3,000 for the second day reported by Parkes Independent Newspaper. The accuracy of these figures is suspect.
1890	Grandstand built.
1900	Fence altered to allow public to travel around the ring. Secretary's salary set at £40. Government subsidy for the year was £99.
1901	Tender of £59/7/0 accepted for additions to the cattle yards. 1000 schedules printed for £7/10/0.
1902	Secretary's salary raised to £50. New Luncheon room to be erected at a cost not to exceed £40. A new Bar to be erected between Pavilion and Grandstand at a cost of £80. The tender of Parkes Band of £9 to play for 2 afternoons at the show was considered too high and the Secretary was advised to try to get a price from The Welcome (Parkesborough) Band.
1903	February meeting – Box trees on ground are to be removed. The Secretary is to arrange to have it done as cheaply as possible. As soon as the season broke, a supply of pepper trees is to be obtained and planted on the western side of the ground. The effects of the 1902 drought were still being felt. Tender of Parkes Band of £4 to play for 2 days was accepted.

1904	Poultry pavilion erected and extended in later years and Luncheon Room floored.
1905	Pavilion to be extended by a skillion 15ft wide for the entire length of the building at a cost of £69/7/0. Tenders invited from Parkes and Welcome Bands with the Parkes Band being engaged for £7. According to the President's annual report, improvements effected during the year include an "Agricultural Hall" and an up to date trotting track.
1906	First organised District Exhibit at show.
1907	Tender of £48 accepted for new entrance gates.
1908	Secretary's salary raised to £100 per year. Show postponed for 2 weeks owing to visit to Sydney of the American Fleet.
1908	The main portion of the present sheep pavilion appears to date back from 1908 when plans were approved for a building to include two champion pens in the centre and raised off the ground. A tender of £450 was accepted.
1909	Caretaker to be employed at £1 per week of 3 full day's work with the right to provide draught horse to graze on showground except on show days. The association is to provide dray and harness. Woodchopping contest is to be dropped from show. The telephone was installed at an annual cost of £4.
1910	Pavilion to be extended by 40 feet without floor and a fruit stall to be erected on the eastern end. A tender was offered by Mr Dodd of £195/1/0. Exhibitors of wheat to be required to show a sheaf of wheat of the same variety as exhibit.
1913	7 acres on the western side of the showground was purchased from Palmer & Leighton. In his annual report the President made mention of the inadequacy of the Luncheon Room with the Parkes-Narromine line due for opening before the next year's show, he foresaw the need for additional facilities to cater for "the thousands who will throng from the north and west when the line from Narromine is open". It appears these optimistic expectations of greatly increased show crowds were not realised.

1914	<p>Alteration in rules for wheat exhibits substituting 1 bushel bins in place of former 4 bushel bag.</p> <p>Caretaker's cottage erected during the year.</p> <p>Decision to run special train from Peak Hill for show following opening of Peak Hill-Narromine line.</p> <p>Government subsidy to cease.</p>
1915	Mr W. Clarke elected Life Member on enlistment to Army.
1916	<p>Committee enlarged to 40 persons.</p> <p>£50 donated to War Chest Fund.</p> <p>Mr Jim Copley elected Life Member on enlistment to Army.</p>
1917	As a result of the protracted railway strike, no special trains were able to run, and the show receipts were affected.
1919	<p>Attention drawn to the traffic danger from cars for hire at show time.</p> <p>Entrance fee for vehicles of non-members fixed at threepence per wheel.</p> <p>State Governor Davidson officially opened the show.</p> <p>The Association showed a loss of £15/7/6 on special trains due to severe influenza epidemic which was then raging.</p>
1920	Show days changed to Tuesday & Wednesday.
1921	<p>G.W. Seaborn resigned as Secretary in February. In the 21 years he had served as Secretary some £3,500 had been expended on improvements and purchase of land.</p> <p>Show days changed back to Wednesday & Thursday.</p> <p>James Heel appointed as Secretary in March at a salary of £140 pa.</p> <p>A wheat crop competition was inaugurated during the year.</p>
1922	<p>Show days again changed to Tuesday & Wednesday.</p> <p>James Heel resigns as Secretary. Salary of new Secretary to be £125 plus 5% of membership fees and specials.</p> <p>L.S. Seaborn appointed Secretary in May.</p> <p>Tenders called for filling in dam and building causeway on northside of showground. Before connection to the town mains, this dam supplied water for show stock and for stock agisted on the grounds between shows.</p> <p>Fallow competition organised.</p>
1924	<p>New Luncheon Room built behind Grandstand.</p> <p>Loss on special trains of £18/15/0.</p>
1925	Loss on special trains of £25/7/8.
1926	Special trains from Peak Hill and Trundle dropped.

	Forbes train to continue. Association received £2/4/7 representing 10% of profit earned by Forbes train.
1927	Tender received from Dean & Corby of £848/11/0 and accepted for erection of new pavilion damaged by windstorm in 1926, with the new building being 10' wider and 10' longer than the previous one.
1927	By a special arrangement with McGlynn & Co and R.S. Howard & Sons, the 2 main stores in town, they were permitted to erect their own pavilions on the showground on payment of £21 each year for 5 years, with arrangements to be reviewed after that period.
1928	Main pavilion extended at a cost of £484/17/0.
1929	Because of congestion, consideration was given to moving machinery exhibits to the western side of the ground, but the matter was dropped after objection by the machinery firms. The Secretary reported having great difficulty in getting monies in being a reflection of the depression then being experienced.
1930	A motion, that the President be eligible for election for 5 consecutive years was lost. Loss on special trains of £3.
1931	Annual General Meeting moved from Shire Hall to Tattersalls Hotel.
1932	At the Annual General Meeting, the matter of running a night show was mentioned but the President was of the opinion that the matter could be discussed at some future time when the outlook was more favourable. At the March meeting a motion was passed that a Committee be appointed to investigate costs of lighting the Ring and Grandstand. The Secretary purchased a dray and harness for use at the showground for £11/1/0 and a horse for £12/10/0.
1934	The Sheep pavilion was extended on the north side at a cost of £201. New Cattle pens were erected for £15.
1936	Inauguration of the 3 day show.
1937	Resolved that side show loud speakers be barred as it interfered with ring broadcasting and created a nuisance otherwise.
1938	Committee increased to 45 pp. Special train from Forbes dropped owing to poor support.
1939	Showground used as training camp for local infantry company.
1940	Proposed internment camp. In May, military authorities inspected the showground for possible use should Italy enter the war.

1941	Because of petrol rationing a special train was run from Forbes.
1942	Military dump. Early in January the military authorities took over the Pavilion and Luncheon Room as a temporary depot for the storage of food supplies. Owing to war conditions, the 1942 show was abandoned.
1943	With the military still occupying the Pavilion and Luncheon Room, a 2 day show on a reduced scale was staged, utilising the Howard & McGlynn pavilions.
1946	The Duke of Gloucester, then Governor General was an official visitor to the show.
1946	The trotting track was banked at a cost of £1,000.
1947	Committee increased to 50 pp inclusive of 2 Life Members and 6 Trustees.
1948	A tender of £635 was accepted for partial connection to the town sewer.
1950	Committee increased to 60 pp. Secretary's salary increased to £400.
1951	Death of show Secretary L.S. Seaborn and P.H. Kinsela appointed. Lighting of track and arena undertaken.
1951	Lighting of track and arena: Mr Halliwell, electrical engineer from the RAS visited Parkes to advise the Association on the proposal to light the track and arena. Following his report, the decision was made to go ahead with the plan if sufficient funds could be raised. By June 1952 the Association was able to order the materials and commence work.
1955	New cattle pavilion erected at cost of £1,156 and pavilion was the Hanlon pavilion in memory of the late W.A. Hanlon.
1955	The industrial pavilion behind the main pavilion was erected at a total cost of £2,591. In the same year, horse stalls costing £1,996 were constructed by Wright's, the same contractor.
1956	First night show.
1957	Mr James Boulware, Agricultural Attache to the US Embassy officially opened the show.
1959	Tenders accepted for erection of Industrial pavilion of £2,394 and horse stalls £1,996. Estimated attendance at the night show was 12,000.
1961	Committee increased to 70 elected members.
1963	Goat section introduced at show.

1964	PA system was purchased by the Association from Eric Waters of Condobolin for £230.
1965	Committee increased to 75 members.
1966	<p>Levelling of ground: Immediately after the 1966 show, the biggest project ever undertaken by the Association was commenced. This was the levelling of the arena which incidentally involved the removal, relocation and reinstallation of fencing, light poles and sewer. A Government loan of \$20,000 was received and the responsibility for repayment for half of the amount was assumed by the trotting club. The earth moving portion of the contract was awarded to R.A. Green for \$8,000 from 3 other tenders received. With additional work carried out, the contractor was eventually paid \$9,000. After arena relevelling, the entire 7 acre area was re-covered with 8 inches of loan and committee members planted sprigs of kikuyu lawn. Construction of terraced banks along the northern side of the arena, provides excellent spectator facilities for 10,000 people. The cost of the completed project worked out as follows:-</p> <p>Earth moving \$9,000 Relocate sewer \$1,900 Extend cyclone fence \$1,900 Re-form track \$2,000 Lighting relocation \$1,900 Electric light installation \$1,100 totalling \$17,800.</p>
1967	<p>Floodlighting: Following the successful completion of the previous contract, a proposal for a complementary scheme to floodlight the arena was favourably received. The electrical engineer of the RAS, Mr McEachran, visited the showground to advise on the proposal and give some indication of likely cost. His preliminary estimate was \$12,750. The lighting recommended was by the new Japanese Toshiba mercury vapour lamps. The committee decided that if sufficient funds could be obtained by public subscription they would be prepared to go ahead with the plan. The public appeal was well supported and from January 1967 to the end of the year \$13,600 had been subscribed, including \$1,000 from the Leagues club. With the apparent success of the appeal in sight, earlier in the year the materials were ordered, and the work of installation was underway before completion of the 1967 show in August. Early in August the 70 foot towers were set in position on their</p>

	<p>concrete bases, using the Jemalong Shire crane for the purpose. The final cost of the project as \$13,500 made up as follows:- 70 foot towers \$2,400 Lamps \$9,250 Installation \$1,800.</p> <p>This was the first installation in Australia of the new Toshiba mercury vapour lamps and only one year later they were installed by the RAS at the Sydney showground. A high commendation for this form of lighting is the fact that after 12 years of use only a slight loss of efficiency is evident.</p>
1968	Office in CBC Bank chambers in Welcome Street available for rental. Lease arranged and lease of previous premises cancelled at cost of \$300.
1969	Fine Arts building transferred to showground on 7 th March.
1970	Display of early farm machinery. This display at the 1970 show was arranged with the co-operation of the Parkes & District Historical Society and later formed the nucleus of the Pioneer Park Museum.
1970	New toilet block and pig pavilion. A loan of \$10,000 was received from the Lands Department for their erection.
1971	A display of shearing using blades, hand operated clipper and modern electric gear was staged by the Historical Society.
1972	Amenities block: A grant of \$5,000 was received from the Racecourse Development Fund. Unemployment relief grants received during the year totalled \$18,828. Under the terms of the above grant, the major portion had to be outlaid for the employment of labour and only a small prescribed percentage was allowed for the purchase of materials.
1974	\$12,000 grant received from the Racecourse Development Fund for construction of the new brick tote building which is also used as the President's room for entertainment of VIP's at show time. Other grants worth \$6,000 were received from the Racecourse Development Fund for improvements to stables, track and running rails etc.
1975	A grant of \$3,450 was received from the Racecourse Development Fund for the sealing of roadways on the western end of the grounds. Tenders were accepted for a new liquor booth.
1976	Lands Department grant of \$3,100 allocated for new main entrance gate. Legacy of \$10,000 from the Estate of the Late Norman Plowman for erection of the brick gates.

1977	Grant of \$2,475 received from the Racecourse Development Fund for purchase of a portable cool room.
1978	Leighton Street closure and relocation sanctioned.
1978	Roadwork: Lands Department grant of \$3,000 and loan of \$6,000 for forming and sealing roadway from main entrance and to form and seal roadways and walkways in commercial area.
1979	Legacy of \$2,000 from the Estate of the Late J.J. Townsend. Fire burnt a block of stables on 17 th September.
1980	Centenary show held.