

# President's Message

On this momentous occasion of our 140<sup>th</sup> Show, on behalf of myself and the Management Committee, I wish to thank the thousands of volunteers who have given of their time and support at all levels over the years to enable us to be where we are today. Many thanks also to those local businesses and individuals who have provided sponsorship and continue to do so.

As President, I wish to welcome you and ask that you accept my invitation to become involved,

either as an exhibitor and/or a visitor to this year's show.

Once again, on behalf of the Management Committee I wish to thank all exhibitors for your fantastic efforts. Exhibits continue to make a huge contribution to the show's success and provide much pleasure and joy to all show visitors. Importantly, I wish you the best of luck with your entries.

For those who are able to attend the show, have a wonderful time as you help us celebrate,

this special event and enjoy all the activities and entertainment that were a part of years gone by.

My personal thanks must also go to the Management Committee, Co-ordinators, Conveners, Stewards, Showground Caretakers and all other volunteers who give so much of their time and energy each year to make it all possible.

Steve  
Rogers



Thank you to our Major Sponsors: A1 Hire Victor Harbor, Compass Feeds Mount Compass, Browse In & Save & Toop Motors Pty Ltd, Investigator College.

## 140th PORT ELLIOT SHOW 1869 - 2018

The Southern Agricultural Society's Show (better known as the Port Elliot Show) was first held on Thursday 10 November 1869 in the yards and paddocks around the Middleton Hotel. A special train service to the region offered inducements to holiday makers. With gate money totalling 45 pounds, representing a total of about 1,100 persons in attendance.

Over the years the show has been held alternatively at Port Victor (now Victor Harbor), Goolwa, Middleton and Port Elliot in yards and paddocks or at the rear of business premises within the towns. Since then, the show has been continually staged for all of those years except for 2 cancellations, 2 fires and WW II.

During this time many milestones were achieved, including being the first country show to have a prize for show jumping and then a walking prize. Farmers wanting a good walking paced animal for ploughing and for the road, entered beasts that were capable of doing a 5 1/2 or 6 miles journey at a steady walk.

Other interesting facts were that a line of sheep from Second Valley were allowed a week to do the journey so they might be in top condition on arrival at the yards for judging. Also, following each show some 60 or more gentlemen involved in the show would adjourn to a nearby hotels and "partake in a sumptuous repast to which justice was done".

In 1889 this current plot of land at Port Elliot totalling 4 acres was purchased for 110 pounds with 100 pounds being donated and it's on this same land that you are enjoying today's show. The only objection to this site was its distance from the beach. Had it been possible to purchase a piece of land close to the sea shore the extra 100 pounds needed was considered to have been too much to pay.

About 10 years ago the Society started negotiating with the Education Department who were seeking a new site for the Port Elliot Primary School. Boundaries were altered and the Show Society, has since been

able to build new replacement buildings and services to create this attractive area.

Over the years, the show has grown from these small humble beginnings to what is now considered to be one of the top 5 largest Regional 2 day country shows in the State. Over the years due to its popularity, attendance has continued to rise from approximately 7,000 in 2015 to a record 10,000 visitors in 2017. Each year with great support from The Times newspaper we produce 9,500 copies of the show book with 6,000 being inserted in the paper eight weeks prior to the show, with the balance available locally and throughout the Fleurieu Peninsula.

All in all our 140<sup>th</sup> show is cause for GREAT celebration. This milestone only possible over the years, through the incredible support of its volunteers, who due to their passion for the show continue to give so much of themselves so everyone can enjoy all the show has to offer each year.