

happy new year

Kia ora tatou,

Apologies for the radio silence, it has been a busy few months for us all, and now here we are at the end of yet another year!

2025 has been a massive year so far. Our annual conference was a jam packed two days full of guest speakers, workshops and networking. We've held two Royal A&P Shows, one in each Island which both highlighted rural excellence. And our Executive and Office personnel have been busy attending many of your shows – enjoying seeing how you hold your different events and sections!

We hope you and your loved ones had a Very Merry Christmas and enjoy a Safe and Happy New Year.

- RAS Executive Committee and Office: Closed on Monday 22 December 2025, and will re-open on Monday 5 January 2026. For anything urgent, please email <mailto:enquiries@ras.org.nz> - and we will respond as soon as possible.

Royal A&P Show

- The Royal A&P Show hosted by Canterbury A&P Association was attended by Ben, Sophie, Hamish, Paul, and Christine. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing the many different sections of the show, with a key highlight being the new wool exhibition marquee – an area that highlighted wool businesses, along with holding the fleece classes. Although the weather wasn't favourable on the Thursday, the Friday and Saturday seemed to pull in the crowd!
- The Royal A&P Show hosted by Stratford A&P Association was attended by Ben, Sophie, Paul, Christine, and Jill. The new shearing shed was completed on the Thursday before the show and managed to pull a significant number of public spectators over the weekend, including competitors from Queensland! The sheep section made a return, and entries in all sections and gate-takings exceeded the 2024 show.

Well done to both Associations on your success of hosting a Royal A&P Show in the 2025-2026 show season!

Horse of the Year 2026

Cancellation of the 2026 Show was announced in December by HOY Event Management and the ESNZ Board. We understand that this cancellation has had a roll-on effect on our affiliated shows that are running HOY qualifying sections. RAS Head Office is available to support your show with any questions. We also urge you to encourage our riding community to continue supporting our shows!

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Height Certificates

Equestrian: A reminder to all Shows, Competitors, Exhibitors, Breeds and Kindreds. Where a section and/or class is defined by height then a current RAS Height Certificate must be carried. Certificates issued by any other organisation are not recognised.

Miniature Horse: The Miniature Horse Section has two categories – CAT A and CAT B which defines the different heights, therefore a **current RAS Height Certificates ONLY** must be carried at a RAS affiliated Shows/Event and produced upon request. A Miniature Horse Height Certificate is not to be accepted.

Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand Facebook Page

RAS has a public Facebook page which we utilise to showcase your shows. This QR code takes you directly to that page, so feel free share it around!

We all know social media plays a significant part in today's advertising. Please be sure to send through any pictures or simply tag us in your posts so we can reshare them!



RAS Rural Ambassador 2026

We are almost halfway through the 2025-2026 showing season. With many of your shows having already been, while the remainder of you are in full preparations, now is a great time for you to jot down a few names of the leaders, achievers and community minded young adults that are a part of your A&P show. Pay attention to those young ones that are on your committee, judging your classes or standing on your gate. Shoulder tap any volunteer under the age of 30 and encourage them to start thinking about applying for the Rural Ambassador Award 2026. More information to follow over the coming months, or contact RAS Head Office for an application form.

Volunteering New Zealand

As our shows are now in full swing, it is important to remember to thank the numerous volunteers that help run our shows. Here is a list of [101 ways](#) to recognise our volunteer community thanks to Volunteering New Zealand.

Bite Sized Pieces

- A letter has been circulated from the office outlining the difference between the 1908 A&P Act, and the 1908 Incorporated Societies Act and new 2022 Act. If you are still unsure on where your show sits, please contact Christine or Jill at the RAS Office.
- We are still in search of a few outstanding trophies. I know I sound like a broken record, but some of these trophies haven't been valued or seen for over 10 years! Getting these back into the RAS is an important part of our history and we'd love to protect and honour the history of these.
- The Executive are in the process of writing their Strategic Plan for the next three years. Information around this will be circulated in the coming months.

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Upcoming Events

RAS Royal Events 2025 – 2026

- Mayfield A&P Association (14th March 2026) – Home Industries.
- Golden Fleece Exhibition – hosted by Central Otago A&P Assn – 18 April 2026.

RAS Annual Conference

- Hotel Elms Christchurch (26-28th June 2026).

If you are finding you are struggling in any way, your District is a good starting point for practical help (details at [Our Districts – Royal Agricultural Society New Zealand \(ras.org.nz\)](https://ras.org.nz)). If you have any concerns or support you would appreciate, please contact your District Chair, the Executive, or the RAS office at any time. If you need your website member login set up (please note each member A&P or Breed and Kindred Society can have two member logins), please contact Christine. Watch out for the buzz around our members in the Show Connect newsletter and on Facebook.

Any words above in this update that are [blue and underlined](#) are links, in some cases to the members only page. If you press the control button (Ctrl on the bottom left of your keyboard) and hover the cursor over the link and then left click with your mouse, you will be taken to the page.

Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua

Those who lead give sight to those who follow, those who follow give life to those who lead.