



Executive Update September 2025

Kia ora tatou,

Our first show is only one week away, and we are looking forward to seeing your returning schedules, new events and turned-out competitors. The National Executive are planning to attend as many of your shows as possible. Please keep an eye out for them as they'd be more than happy to help in whatever capacity is needed.

In September we also welcome Paul Vanner onto the National Executive Committee in a co-opted position. Paul is the President of the Stratford A&P Association and was also one of our 2025 RAS Rural Ambassador Judges. Welcome Paul, we look forward to your insight and contribution on the Executive.

RAS Rural Ambassador 2026

Although the 2025 conference seems so far away, now is a great time to start thinking about the leaders, achievers and community minded young adults that are a part of your A&P shows. 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.

Volunteering New Zealand

Volunteering New Zealand has a quick and easy [assessment](#) available that allows you to assess your A&P show against their Best Practice Guidelines. This assessment will only take a short 5-10 minutes but will allow you to understand where you can improve while also sending you a personalised action plan and some links with relevant resources. This is a worthy investment of your time as we head into our heavily volunteer based period of our season!

Bite Sized Pieces

- 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.
- A draft contract is currently awaiting approval by Government for the MPI/Government Funding of \$1,000 for each A&P Show for the 2025.2026 show season. We will send more information to you as soon as it becomes available.
- There is currently one vacant position on the National Executive. If you know someone who would like to serve in a volunteer position to help see the RAS and our showing movement move forward into the future, then please get in touch with Christine Roberts (Operations Manager) or Ben Burgess (National President).
- 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.



Upcoming Events

RAS Royal Events 2025 – 2026

- Poverty Bay A&P Association (15-18th October 2025) Equestrian and Dog Trials.
- Marlborough A&P Association (8-9th November) – Home Industries.
- Mayfield A&P Association (7th March 2026) – Home Industries.
- Golden Fleece Exhibition – hosted by Central Otago A&P Assn – April 2026.

The Royal A&P Show of New Zealand

- Canterbury A&P Association (13-15th November) – Royal A&P Show
- Stratford A&P Association (28-30th November) – Royal A&P Show

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.