

SWAN VIEW SHOW A Short History

Immediately after World War II Swan View was mainly a primary producing area, with vineyards, small farms and little in the way of suburban housing.

In 1946 a number of residents in the district felt that it would be a good idea to promote an event that could bring people together in a social atmosphere. It was decided that a flower show could be presented. A committee was formed and a very successful show resulted. In 1947 following another popular flower event, it was agreed that the format should be developed as an agricultural show. A new committee was formed and the Swan View Agricultural & Arts Society was founded.

The first Swan View Show was held in 1948 at Brown Park, with Edgar Hore, President, Dick Stevenson, Secretary and Eric Leighton, Treasurer. All indoor exhibits were displayed in the original wooden hall, which existed until recently. Timber structures were set up and covered by tarpaulins hired from the Western Australian Government Railways Midland workshops to provide shelter for other attractions outdoors.

In these early years the show finished promptly at 5.00PM. The hall was cleared quickly and the floor prepared with candle grease and sawdust for the Show Ball. Members then rushed home, cleaned up and dressed formally for the Ball. Prizes were presented to the successful exhibitors throughout the evening. A local band was paid 4 pounds 10 shillings for the evening's entertainment. A further 30 shillings was collected from those present to keep the band playing on after 1.00AM, with the hope the local gendarmes would not stop this extension beyond the authorised hours. They never did.

A Ball immediately after the Show ? - They were a hardy lot back then!

The original sheds for poultry, flowers, lunch and afternoon teas were constructed by members from demolished poultry farm buildings in Morrison Road, around 1949 or 1950. As building materials were in short supply, the sheds were left with earthen floors. The flower and lunch sheds were removed when the Shire of Mundaring completed the new Recreation Centre. The poultry shed was removed by the Society in 1994 to enable a new brick pavilion to be constructed. This new facility was named the Brock Pavilion in recognition of the Brock family who have exhibited, or have been involved, as members in every show since the first in 1948.

Urbanisation of Swan View resulted in a large increase in the indoor exhibits such as the arts and crafts, floriculture, cooking, photography and many other displays including children's sections. Outdoors the equestrian events have always been very popular. Cattle, goat and alpaca breeds have added to the rural atmosphere as have sheep dog displays. The Show has always had a strong poultry competition. Rabbits and cavies are other animal breeds to have been displayed.

It has been an ongoing policy of the Society to invite youth groups to participate in the Show and demonstrate their abilities. Performing groups are always popular with the public.

All records of the Society between 1958 and 1970 have been lost. Despite exhaustive enquiries it has not been possible to establish office bearers and other members who have contributed to the Society during this period. Extensive research has resulted in an almost complete record of office bearers and members who have contributed so much to the Society since 1971. From the inaugural Show in 1948 there have been many wonderfully dedicated people, members and non-members, who have given so much time and effort to ensure each year's event is a success.

Many important dignitaries have given their time to honour the Society by opening the Show. On two occasions the Show has been opened by the Western Australian Governor, in 1986 Professor Gordon Reid and 1994 Major General Michael Jeffery.

Trevor Haworth
Past President
Life Member

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