

AGM - 2018 Royal Easter Show Report

We have 10 rodent shows in New South Wales each year, the bimonthly ones in Box Hill and local agricultural shows like Hawkesbury and Newcastle. The Royal Easter Show is the clear number one outing for the club; there is a tangible buzz amongst members in the weeks leading up to the event, and on the day: "It's the *Royal!*" We attend this show at the invitation of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS), and 2018 marked the fourteenth consecutive Royal Easter Show this club has attended.

Feedback we received in 2017 from the organisers of the Show, the RAS, suggested our club should do more to promote itself at the event. Accordingly, we prepared and displayed two different types of club banner, along with informative posters about rodents, and had printed brochures available for interested visitors. The RAS told us at the Show this year they were impressed with our efforts.

Our own post-Show feedback to the RAS highlighted our two main problems: this year there was a big black wall erected outside our exhibit, effectively cutting us off from the rest of the Pet Pavilion; and our usual Show day of Monday had been moved to Friday. Some members had difficulty attending on a Friday, and the Homebush area was busy with sporting events and general Friday traffic. Also, it was the very first day of the Show.

This year we had 35 individual entrants. Over 120 rats were entered, and more than 200 mice. Grand Champion Mouse of the Royal Easter Show was Minion Sonar, exhibited by Thomas McLeod. Grand Champion Rat was Rivers, exhibited by Sandra McLean. Major prizes were presented by John Bryson, Royal Agricultural Society National Director of Domestic Pets.

We had exhibitors travel from as far as Melbourne, and guest judges from our QRF affiliate in Brisbane. The Royal Easter Show requires a big effort, but one that is certainly worthwhile making for the fun of attending.



John Bryson presenting awards to Sandra McLean and Thomas McLeod