

'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, March 6, 1929:

## ORBOST SHOW

Numerous entries have been received for the Orbost show to be held to-morrow on the new enclosure, a fitting start for an up-to-date move.

Entries in cattle and sheep sections eclipse all previous records. In fact all classes are filled well.

The train from Bairnsdale will arrive at 10.15 to-morrow morning, and horses for competition in the arena events are expected.

There will be no special return train, so that those who come from a distance by train will have to remain in the town overnight.

Report of the first show held at the new ground on 7th March, 1929 - the present site of the Orbost Golf Club.

'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, March 13, 1929:

## ORBOST SHOW

### RECORD GATE.

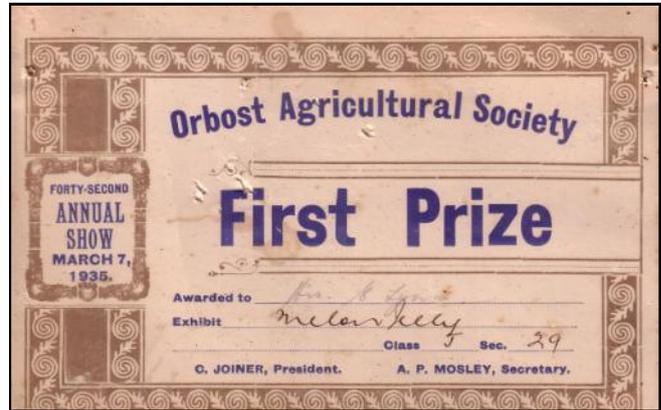
A very fine exhibition. Such was the general verdict of the Orbost show. The weather was fine. It was neither hot nor cold, and dust was not in evidence. Local people mustered in very strong force, and visitors poured in from all points of the compass, the attendance being a record. The gate taking, exclusive of members' tickets, were £74/9/-. At no previous show were the takings so large, and it is well to remember that an exceptionally large number of members' tickets were sold. . . .

People were most eloquent in their praises of the new show ground. It is in a good setting and commands a fine view of the Orbost flats. Beyond doubt it will serve its purpose admirably when properly equipped.

The arrangements were well planned and equally well carried out. The president, Mr. Geo Trewin, had an eye on everything and worthily sustained his reputation as an indefatigable worker, while of the secretary, Mr. W. G. Robinson, it would be hard to speak in too high terms of praise. The other officials too and judges did all that was expected of them.

The show was officially opened by Mr. Lind, M.L.A., who said he was pleased to be present with Mr. Trewin and his body of loyal supporters. . . . He also paid tribute to Mr. Isaac Perry, who displayed the right spirit of citizenship in deciding that as owner of the land (now the new show ground) it would be disposed of for public purposes only. The speaker was sure the new ground would be used very effectively for the purposes for which it was intended in this great district, which was as yet only in the making. . . .

It then fell to Mr. Lind to present Mr. G. Trewin and Mr. Alex. Rodwell each with a life member's badge for service rendered to the society, both of whom returned thanks.



*First Prize awarded to Mrs E Lynn for Melon Jelly at the 42nd Annual Show in 1937.*

The Orbost Show has not always been held in the Autumn. In line with most other Gippsland shows the 45th (1938) and 46th (1939) Orbost Shows were very successful spring time events.

At a committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 23, 1938, a motion favoring a spring show was adopted.

'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, March 2, 1938:

## ORBOST AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

A committee meeting was held in the Shire Hall last Wednesday evening, when there were present Messrs G. H. Trewin (President), A. P. Mosley, R. J. Mosley, N. Heinke, H. W. Wilton, John Lynn, A. E. Trewin, J. Perry, H. Cameron, J. D. McFarlane, C. Chapman, and W. Cameron.

### THE NEXT SHOW

The President said the main business was to decide whether a show was to be held in the autumn. In view of the paralysis epidemic it was doubtful if an autumn show would be a success.

Mr. Heinke said a good few people had been asking why the committee were not going on with the show. Personally he would like to see a spring show.

Mr. H. W. Wilton moved that a spring show be held. Seconded by Mr. Chapman.

The President: If an autumn show were possible it would suit better. A spring show is not so suitable for this district, but under present circumstances I don't know if we would get sufficient support for an autumn show.

The Secretary: People will not come from Cann River to attend it.

Mr. Wilton: What chances would a spring show have of being a success?

The President: Not very good.

Mr. Chapman: Let us see if we can go in with Bairnsdale and Sale and get people from those places to come to Orbost.

Mr. Perry: We should get out of our heads the idea of a show in autumn. I would like to see a show in spring, but we don't know how long the paralysis will last and we must not let our desires have too much influence on our judgment.

The President: There is very little chance of holding an autumn show, and the next best thing is to get a day for a spring show and try to work in with down country shows.

Mr. Heinke: It has been generally discussed that we should try to hold a show between the shows of Bairnsdale and Sale, and a few years ago I think we were asked if we would join the Gippsland Agricultural Societies' Association.

The motion favouring a spring show was then carried.

On the motion of Mr. N. Heinke and John Lynn it was decided to ask the societies of Sale, Bairnsdale, Maffra and Traralgon when their shows are to be held.

When this information is received another meeting will be held to fix a date for the Orbost show,

#### **DAMAGES TO SOCIETY'S PROPERTY**

The secretary directed attention to the damage being done to the buildings on the Show Ground. If the Golf Club would work with the Society it might be possible to have a caretaker permanently in charge.

On the motion of Mr. H. W. Wilton and Mr. A. E. Trewin, Mr. McFarlane was given authority to see if arrangements could be made with the Golf Club for the appointment of a caretaker.

#### **A GENEROUS OFFER**

The President intimated that Mr. Hall had offered to get up an entertainment in aid of the Society's funds.

This offer was accepted with thanks on the motion of Messrs Heinke and Perry, on whose motion an entertainment committee was appointed consisting of the president, the secretary and Messrs W. Cameron, N. Heinke, M. W. Cowell and R. J. Mosley, with power to add.

*'Snowy River Mail'*, Wednesday, November 16, 1938:

## **ORBOST'S 45th SHOW**

### **First Attempt in Spring Proves Success**

#### **Gate Receipts £66**

The Orbost Show at this time of the year was a change from the usual custom. It was an experiment, and a humorist has defined an experiment as something that does not turn out very well. But that definition must be cast aside after the Show on Saturday, for it turned out remarkably well, and there is abundant cause for congratulation. It must be admitted that so far as fruit and vegetables are concerned the show was not up to the usual standard, but there are important compensations, and when everything is taken into consideration, it

must be admitted that the holding of the show in spring instead of autumn has much to recommend it.

Fine weather prevailed, and the ground was in good order. A large number of cars were on the ground, and these were parked in orderly fashion. The attendance was exceptionally good and the spectators were able to get a good view of the ring events. £66 was taken at the gate.

An unusually large number of visitors were present. Many came from Lindenow, Bairnsdale, Sale, Bruthen, Buchan, and a few from Omeo and other remote centres. A few also came from Cann River and other places east of Orbost which are generally regarded as belonging to our district.

The list of judges comprised a number of experts from remote districts, and their decisions appear to have given general satisfaction. The President, Mr. G. Trewin, and the secretary, Mr. A. P. Mosley, were indefatigable in their efforts to ensure the success of the show. . . . .

The Grand Parade of led stock attracted considerable attention and was admired by onlookers. Wendy Lynn on her Shetland pony "Banjo" was watched with interest and members of the Brodribb Young Farmers' Club were also commented on.

#### **OFFICIAL OPENING**

In the afternoon the President (Mr. G. H. Trewin) thanked every one who helped in the work of carrying out the show and expressed the hope that whether the show in future was to be a spring show or otherwise, the public would rally round it and assist to make it a success. He then called upon Mr. Paterson, M.H.R. to officially open the Show. . . . .

*'Snowy River Mail'*, Wednesday, November 30, 1938:

## **ORBOST AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

### **Spring Show Favored**

At a recent meeting of the local Agricultural Society a discussion ensued regarding the recent spring show. It was generally conceded that the show was a decided success from all points of view. It realised a profit of about £50, the total receipts being £251, and the expenditure £201. After some discussion it was decided on the motion of Mr. John Lynn, seconded by Mr. A. Trewin that the next show of 1939 be a spring show.

Prize moneys totalling £175 were passed for payment. . . . .

The matter of augmenting the society's funds was taken into consideration and after some discussion the secretary was instructed to make inquiries with a view to holding an aeroplane pageant in aid of the Society.

Snowy River Mail

Wednesday, November 1, 1939

The Orbost Show is generally a most important event in Croajingolong, and the one to be held on the 11th inst. will be no exception to the rule. . . .

This will be the second effort under the new arrangement under which the show is held in Spring. The last Spring show was a conspicuous success, and there are indications of another success on the 11th inst. . . .

'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, November 15, 1939:

## ORBOST'S 46th ANNUAL SHOW

Officially Opened By Hon. A. E. Lind

EXHIBITS UP TO USUAL STANDARD

Gate Takings £54

A large number of visitors, imposing display in the Exhibition building, live stock in excellent condition, and attractions in abundance — Such were the principal features of the Orbost show. Of course a good show was expected. The season has been good, live stock are in good condition, and country people are in the best of spirits. One misfortune was the holding of the Dandenong show on the same day, which may have kept a few exhibits from Orbost.

The weather was favourable, but by no means perfect. The sky was rather cloudy, and the sun hardly got a chance to peep through and brighten up the surroundings.

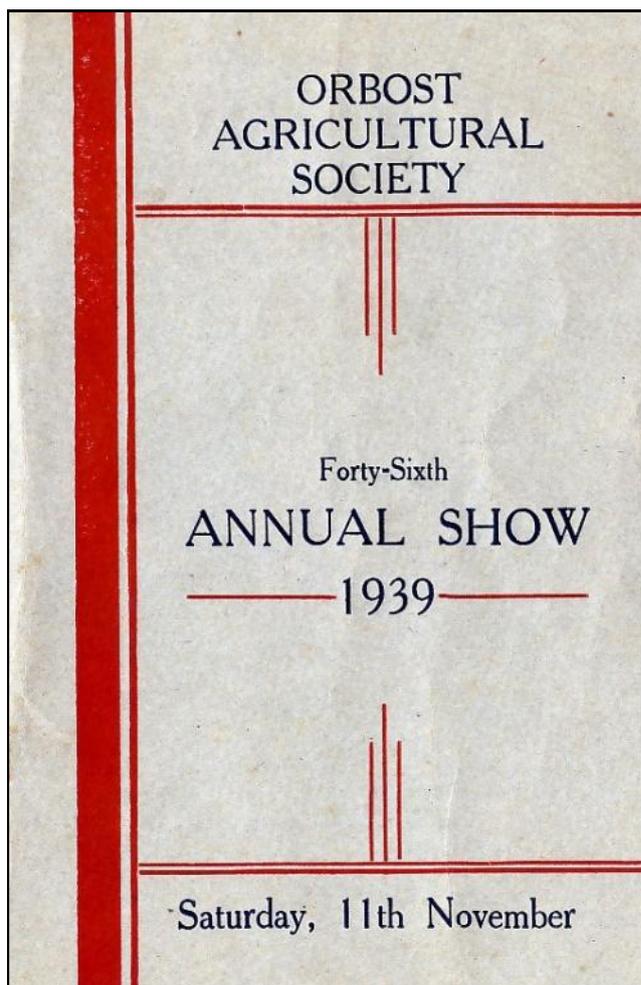
A large number of visitors were present. Some came from Lindenow, Bairnsdale, Sale, Bruthen, Buchan and centres even more remote. There were also representatives from districts east of Orbost.

According to general opinion the show, taken as a whole, showed that this time of the year is the best time to hold it. Nevertheless a few still cling to the idea that it should be held in the Autumn. Of course something may be said from this point of view. Orbost is famed for its fruit and vegetables, which could be shown to great advantage in the autumn, and so long as the show is held in Spring, these products must necessarily be almost unrepresented. But the Spring show has its compensations, the most important of which is the probability that it will attract the larger number of entries and visitors from the Bairnsdale and Sale districts.

The gate takings were £54, about £14 less than last year. But the sale of members' tickets brought over £20 more this year, and under these circumstances the attendance was probably just as good or even better.

Numerous side shows were on the ground, and they attracted a good deal of attention. The publican's booth and the refreshment booth catered amply for the requirements of the public and did very good business. The Orbost Municipal Band played selections during the afternoon, and there was ample opportunity for enjoyment by young and old.

The show was declared open in the afternoon by the Minister for Lands, the Hon. A. E. Lind. . . .



### OFFICE-BEARERS 1939

PRESIDENT— MR. GEO. TREWIN

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Messrs N. Heinke, Jno. Lynn, and J. Duggan.

TREASURER—Mr. C. Chapman.

Shed Supervisor—Mr. Jas. Hossack

Assistant Shed Supervisor—Mr. Alex. Cameron

COMMITTEE

Messrs M. Cowell, A. E. Rodwell, H. Cameron, C. Joiner, A. Trewin, J. Lynn, R. Fisher, R. R. Johnston, J. Perry, H. W. Wilton, J. Canavan, J. Forrest, S. J. Lynn, S. Farmer, J. McKenna, R. Leatham, J. Irvine, J. Hossack, J. F. McCoy, J. W. Hall, Roy Robinson.

SECRETARY— A. P. MOSLEY, Nicholson Street, Orbost.  
LETTER BOX 3. PHONE 190.

The November 1939 Show was the last held at the Golf Links site, when owing to the 1939-45 war the Society went into recess.

The operations of the Orbost Agricultural Society were wound up at meeting held on Wednesday, 17th June, 1942, when all its assets, including the share held in the land, was disposed of.

## **The Snowy River Mail**

**Wednesday, June 24, 1942**

So the operations of the Orbost Agricultural Society have come to an end. In view of all the circumstances this is only what should be expected. The war has been responsible to some extent for this result, but it must be admitted that the support accorded to the society in late years by the rural population and the general public has not been generous. As the committee saw no reason to hope for better encouragement in the immediate future they adopted what seemed to be the best course, which, however, was taken with much regret. Orbost has been noted for its agricultural shows, which have been very favourably commented upon by visitors from various parts of the State, and which have done much to bring this district into public prominence. Perhaps a younger generation of farmers will see fit to form a new society in a few years' time, when prospects are more favourable. In anticipation of this the surplus that the society leaves is to be invested and made available with accumulations of interest to such new society should it be formed within five years. Let us hope that such new society if formed will profit by the experiences of the old one and will receive more encouragement and support. At present the outlook is black, and all branches of industry must be content to hang on and hope for the best. But prospects will brighten in due course, and the time may come when, with a scheme of mutual help and co-operation, it will be possible to carry on successfully a new agricultural society. . . . .

**'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, June 24, 1942:**

### **ORBOST AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

#### **FINAL MEETING**

The final meeting of the local Agricultural Society was held last Wednesday, the President (Mr. G. Trewin), occupying the chair.

The secretary submitted a statement showing that

the sale of assets up to that time realised £241/5/-. The bank debit and accounts owing totalled £151. The donations received some time ago with a view to keeping the society afloat amounted to £53. These two last amounts deducted from £241/5/- left £37/5/-.

The President: The meeting is to settle accounts and wind up affairs. I don't like it, but no other course is open.

The secretary said there was still to be disposed of a cast iron stand and copper, three forms, and some crockery.

The accounts owing were passed for payment, and on the motion of Mr. McCoy and Mr. A. Trewin the money (about £53) subscribed recently with the view of keeping the society going is to be refunded to the donors.

On the motion of Mr. R. J. Mosley and Mr. J. Irvine the crockery is to be donated to the Orbost Hospital.

On behalf of the Hospital Committee Mr. F. McCoy expressed thanks for the donation.

The copper may be offered at the next pig sale.

About £37 still remained to be dealt with.

The following motion was then carried on the motion of Mr. R. J. Mosley and Mr. T. Robinson:— "That £35 be invested in the Liberty Loan, and that any balance then remaining be lodged in the State Savings Bank in the name of five trustees to be appointed; that if a new agricultural society be formed within five years the money be paid to the society so formed, and if no society be formed within that period the money with all accumulations of interest be paid to such charitable institutions as the trustees may determine; that three trustees form a quorum, and that if any trustee die or leave the district within that period the remaining trustees appoint a trustee in his stead.

The trustees appointed were Messrs. H. P. Cameron, G. Trewin, J. Irvine, J. Russell jnr., and F. McCoy.

On the motion of Mr. McCoy and Mr. H. Cameron the minutes of the meeting are to be lodged in the State Savings Bank. . . . .



**Orbost Show Committee - about 1957**  
**Includes: F. Aitken, Clyde Morgan (with son, Richard), Fred Lay, N. Morris, Harold Morris (Buchan).**

On the motion of Mr. R. J. Mosley and Mr. J. Russell jnr. a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Chapman for his services as treasurer to the society.

A public meeting was held on 24th March, 1954, to reform the Orbost Agricultural Society which had been inoperative since the last agricultural show held in November 1939.

However the first show, organised by the newly reformed society, was not held until March 1956 at Lochiel Park. It once again became an Autumn show which has continued to the present day.

*'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, March 31, 1954:*

## **Orbost Agricultural Society Reformed**

**Orbost Agricultural Society, which has been defunct since 1939, was reformed at a largely attended public meeting in the Shire Chambers on Wednesday evening, March 24th.**

First officials at the newly formed society are:

President: Cr S. J. Lynn. Vice-presidents: Messrs N. Heinke, R. R. Johnston and K. Lynn. Secretary: Mr Don Keir (pro tem).

The meeting, which attracted about 30 enthusiasts, decided to hold a monster gymkhana, on a date yet to be fixed (probably at close of the football season). Proceeds from this function will be divided between the Infant Welfare Auxiliary and the Agricultural Society.

A separate team of officials was elected to conduct the gymkhana. . . . .

*'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, February 1, 1956:*

## **Orbost To Again Stage Annual Shows**

**ORBOST DISTRICT WILL, THIS YEAR, SEE A RETURN OF THE ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL SHOWS WHICH PROVED SO POPULAR IN THE YEARS GONE BY.**

**The exhibition — the first since 1939 — will be held on Monday, March 12th.**

It is proposed to hold the first of these shows in a somewhat modified form and to gradually build up to the high standard of excellence which Orbost's annual fixtures in the past enjoyed.

Absence of the necessary ground, hall and finance, has perforce, restricted the society in its movements for this year.

### **MR. JACK LYNN PRESIDENT**

The annual meeting of the Show Society was held on Thursday evening last, when Mr Jack Lynn was unanimously elected to guide the destinies of the newly reformed association.

Other officers elected were: Vice-presidents, Messrs. R. Cameron, N. G. Heinke and K. Lynn. Secretary: Mr. D. Keir. Asst. Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. L. Cameron.

Committee (with power to add): Messrs G. Richardson, M. Croft, G. Perry, Joe Webb, K. Russell, L. Johnston, T. Gooch, Kaye Lynn and E. W. Johnston.

The meeting appointed Messrs J. Lynn, N. G. Heinke and D. Keir to confer with the trustees of the old Orbost Agricultural Society, regarding the possibility of obtaining the £80 standing to the credit of that society.

It was decided to request the Orbost Show-Gymkhana committee to transfer the portion of the funds due to the reformed Agricultural Society.

Application will also be made to Orbost Shire Council for permission to hold the 1956 exhibition on Lochiel Park.

Membership tickets were fixed at £1/1, entitling admission to member and one lady. Until the society is on a sound footing there will be no concessions.

It was decided that the nett profit be divided equally between the Agricultural Society and the R.S.L. As a donation to Orbost's war memorial.



*Orbost Agricultural Show at Lochiel Park - Lochiel House in background.*

Mr Jack Webb, representing the R.S.L. Stated that the Orbst branch would conduct the carnival side of the show and the booths.

A schedule committee consisting of Messrs J. Lynn, R. Cameron, N. Heinke, G. Perry and Joe Webb was formed which will meet weekly to arrange the schedule events.

**'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, February 8, 1956:**

## **£203 Prize Money for Orbst Show**

**Prize money, totalling £203/10/ has already been allocated towards the ring events and various sections of Orbst's reformed agricultural show to be held on Monday, March 12th.**

An attractive programme of over 30 events will be catered for in two rings, with prize money amounting to approximately £150.

Other sections provided for in the schedule are horses (led), poultry, junior farmers and dogs.

In the dog section, provision has been made for 44 classes and 80 in the poultry.

Junior farmers will compete in nine classes for jersey and Guernsey breeds.

The committee, at Thursday evening's meeting felt that the above would be the foundation upon which to build Orbst's show up to its former high prestige.

It was reported that the £80 standing to the credit of the old show committee had been distributed to local charitable institutions.

The schedule for the forthcoming show was discussed, and is now in the hands of the printers.

Admission to the exhibition was fixed at 4/- for adults, and children under 14 years, free.

As a fitting climax to the day it is proposed to hold a grand show ball in the Mechanics' Hall at night.

**'Snowy River Mail', Wednesday, March 14, 1956:**

## **Orbst's Reformed Show Triumphs**

Reformed after a long lapse, Orbst's first agricultural show since 1939, held at Lochiel Park on Monday, was a grand triumph and has set firm foundations upon which to build future annual exhibitions to reflect the wonderful agricultural, pastoral and dairying wealth of this grand district with its great potentials not as yet fully developed.

Monday's show was of necessity on a modified scale due to lack of facilities in which to house exhibits, but the grand success attained is of sufficient encouragement to enable the society to plan and develop bigger and more diversified exhibitions in the years ahead.

Marred to some extent by rain which fell overnight and more in the morning, nevertheless the attendance was very gratifying and proved that district citizens welcomed the return of their own

annual agricultural show.

### **GATE TAKINGS AND INSURANCE**

Gate taking for the day were £193, whilst a goodly number of members' tickets were sold prior to the exhibition.

Wisely taking out a pluvius insurance, the society collected a £100 policy for 10 points of rain between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. so that financially the society will show a nice profit.

### **THE GRAND PARADE**

No show is complete without a grand parade and the one on Monday, although modified, more than made up in quality. The parade was quite spectacular and



**Photographs of Shows held at Lochiel Park**



**Fisher Bros. Bean Seed Factory in background (former Orbst Butter Factory. Mr Ted White (in overalls at rear).**

worthy of any company. It was evident that spectators appreciated the event by the crowding to vantage points to see the prize winners parade the arena.

Mr Ray Archibald, from Bairnsdale, staged a non-competitive display of stud Hereford cattle, which took part in the parade.

Also taking part in the parade was the locally owned pacing stallion "Mighty Warrior" wearing the Victorian Derby sash. Popular sportsman, Mr Pres. Nixon owns this fine speedster.

### OFFICIAL OPENING

Orbost's good friend and counsellor, Sir Albert Lind, M.L.A., officially opened the show during the grand parade. Sir Albert congratulated the Society on its decision to reform and said the Orbost district with its great wealth and potentials was capable of holding an exhibition second to none.

### THE VENUE

Lochiel Park proved an excellent setting for the holding of the exhibition. Orbost shire council swung in behind the society and lent great assistance. The ground until early afternoon was inclined to be a little slippery for jumping, but quickly dried out under the influence of a fairly strong breeze and sunshine, making conditions underfoot more pleasant.

### BROADCASTING

Mr Jack Connley, of Tonghi Creek, kept the ball rolling with a spirited description of events over the "mike". The public was thus kept well informed, and appreciated this avenue of information.

### VERSATILE SHOW PRESIDENT

Show president, Cr. Jack Lynn showed what can be done with horses when he led his creamy stallion into the arena and at his bidding the horse laid down, sat up and picked up his owner's hat. A pleasing little turn which the crowd appreciated.

### HORSE HURDLE OVAL FENCE

An unrehearsed incident which kept the crowd in good humour occurred during the running of the billy can race at Monday's show.

Max Towns had just completed the course in fine style and looked the likely winner. However, hampered by the can of water, he was unable to check his mount, which continued on and hurdled the oval fence.

Fortunately no one was injured.

Successive Orbost Agricultural Shows were held at Lochiel Park until 1976.

The construction of the Princes Freeway, viaducts and bridges across the Snowy River flats, opened in 1976, took out a portion of Lochiel Park, thus reducing the area available for the Show.

As a result the showground was re-located to the Newmerella Recreation Reserve with the first show being held there in March 1977. This venue has been used since then for the staging of Orbost's Agriculture Show held on the Monday Labour Day holiday each year.



*A selection of Newmerella Recreation Reserve Orbost Agricultural Show photographs*

