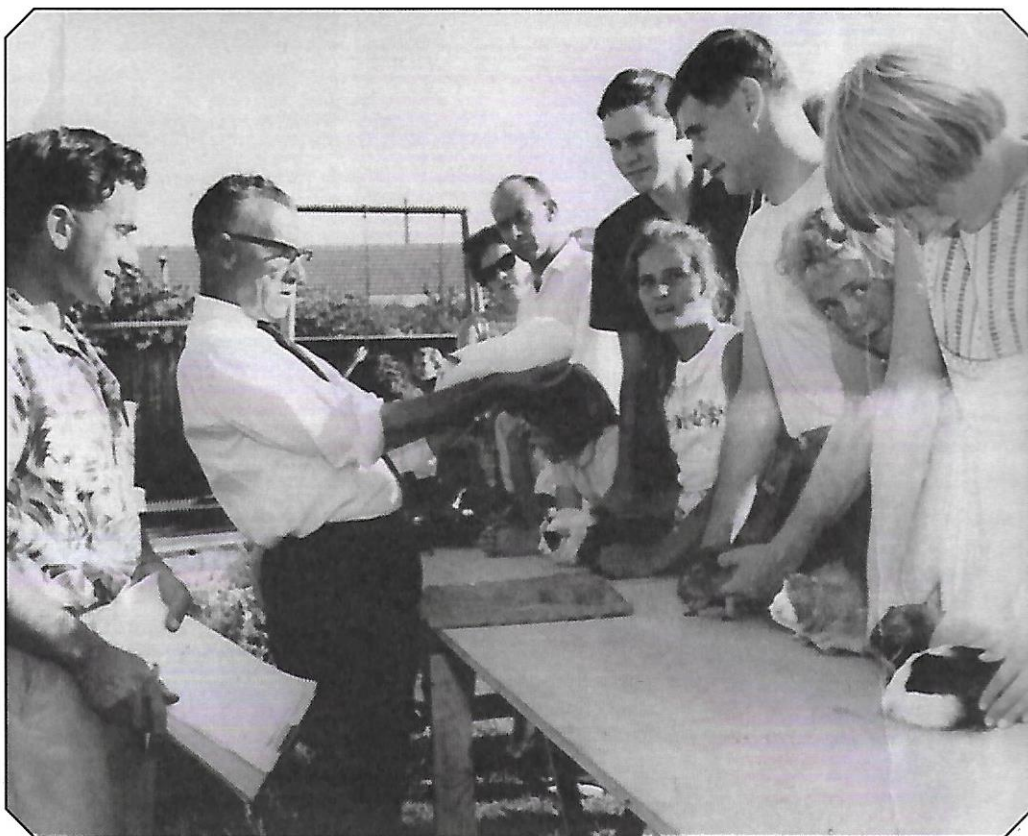


THE FIRST EVER AUSTRALIAN CAVY SHOW

By June Halls Secretary (1962)
Victorian Cavy Club

Source: Edited reprint from the 1983
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THE DAY of the first ever Australian Cavy show, July 14th, 1962, dawned bright and fine, which was just as well as we planned to hold it out of doors in the back yard of my home in Chadstone, Victoria. We had obtained advance publicity in the local press, so the telephone rang hot for several days while we answered questions on show procedure, grooming, entry fees and so on. Early on the morning of the show we had a visit from Miss Lois Lathlean of radio station 3DB who interviewed us on our plans for the day and on the future of the Cavy Fancy in Victoria. She compiled quite a deal of information on what we were trying to do and subsequently discussed our club and its work at some length on her radio programme for women.



My daughters were busy in the kitchen making toffee and preparing food for the afternoon tea, whilst at my insistence my husband erected a large tent in the back yard, to serve as a marquee for the judging. We had provided an old kitchen table for the judge's use and a supply of ear labels and raffle tickets as well as an old exercise book to contain the entries. Our prize cards were laboriously typed out on blue, green and red cardboard.

Shortly after lunch the first exhibitors arrived, their straw filled boxes of cavies tucked under their arms. An impatient photographer for *The Age* newspaper was waiting for them, soon selecting an appealing little girl to cuddle her pet cavy for the press picture. Within half an hour there were small boys on top of, underneath, climbing up and swinging from everything in the back yard.

Mr Sam Wood came along, immaculate in his best suit, to act as sole officiating judge. Mr Wood had emigrated from Essex in England where he had been involved with the UK cavy fancy. He took one look inside the tent, pronounced the light

inadequate and promptly moved the table outside. With a total entry of seventy-seven cavies this table was obviously too small, so we produced a section of paling fence to rest on top of the table. It overlapped a foot or more all round and provided a better area.

We had about a dozen members in the club at the time, all enthusiastic and helpful – the trouble was that Mr Wood was the only one who knew what he was about! The cavies were divided into

the following classes: Self, Tortoiseshell and White, Broken, Agouti, Longhair, Abyssinian and Litter.

When judging commenced an immediate problem was that the eager exhibitors and onlookers leaned heavily on the edges of our makeshift table, threatening to tip all of the cavies into a confused heap on the ground. Another difficulty rather damaging to Mr Wood's suit was that nobody had refrained from feeding greenstuffs on the day of the show with

disastrous results.

However the show went on, our President valiantly coping with everything that came until finally we persuaded him to take a break while we served afternoon tea. We had sold every toffee; now we quickly disposed of all the cordial, cake, biscuits and tea, and one of my daughters even sold the fruit from the dining table bowl. When everything was gone, a little girl came to the back door and asked "How much is it for a glass of water?"

Top: Mr Jack Thompson officiating, another English judge who had emigrated from Newcastle in England, seen here judging the second show, held again in June Hall's back yard in Chadstone.

Bottom: In the foreground judging is Mr Jack Thompson, behind him is Mr Sam Wood the club's first President and on the left is Mrs June Halls.