

QUEENSLAND
Country Life
Showgirl
Awards



Proudly hosted by
Queensland Ag Shows



Information & Guidelines for
**Entrants of the
Showgirl Competition**

Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards
Hosted by Queensland Ag Shows

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Ipswich Florist Helen Seccombe Mrs Kathie Lange

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An overview of the Showgirl Awards

The following is a brief explanation on the running of the Showgirl Awards from Local Level to the State Final in Brisbane:

1. The State Showgirl Committee will prepare each year an updated copy of the Conditions and Guidelines which can be downloaded from www.queenslandshows.com.au. Promotional information can be displayed in shops and/or local newspapers etc. by the local Show Society. Young women enter the Awards by contacting the Show Society and must complete the nomination form.
2. There is no entry fee for the Awards and money does not need to be raised by the entrants. It is up to the individual Show Society if fundraising is required. This is entirely at Local Show Level only and does not form part of the State Showgirl Awards Conditions and Guidelines.
3. Many Local Show Societies incorporate other age groups e.g. Junior Showgirl etc. These categories are held separately from the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards and conditions of entry and guidelines for running these events are entirely left to the individual Show Society.
4. The winning Showgirl of a Local Show Society is selected by a panel of preferably three judges who are nominated by the local Show Society or Showgirl Coordinator of that Society. It is recommended to Societies that these judges are from outside the district and consist of two females and one male however this is not mandatory. The Showgirl retains the role for one year until the next Show and could perform various tasks which could include opening the Show, public speaking throughout the year, presenting prizes for winners in agricultural events, assisting in organising the next Showgirl Competition for the following year's show and encouraging entry by speaking with potential candidates.
5. On completion of a Local Showgirl Competition, each Show Society returns a copy of the Nomination Form and Profile Form A of the entrant selected as their Showgirl to their Sub Chamber Secretary or Sub Chamber Showgirl Coordinator. This must be done as soon as possible.
6. Following an entrant's success at their local Show, the Showgirl then goes on to a Sub Chamber Judging. Each local Show Society is a member of one of 11 Sub Chambers who come under parent organisation, Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies (QLD Ag Shows). Sub-Chamber Judging must be held prior to 30 June to enable the entrant to compete at the State final which is held at Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) in Brisbane in the same year. Each Sub Chamber appoints a coordinator to organise their Sub Chamber Judging.
7. The State Final for the Showgirl Awards is conducted by the QLD Ag Shows State Showgirl Committee. Sponsors, itinerary, judges etc for the State Final are organised by the State Showgirl Committee. In addition to an interview the girls partake in various social and public speaking functions in which many elements are judged. A Presentation Ceremony is held at the Royal Queensland Show where the Showgirl and Runner-Up are announced. A Celebration Dinner follows the Presentation Ceremony.
8. Whilst in Brisbane the Showgirls, along with the Committee attend a variety of functions and activities. All Finalists are required to stay in Brisbane for the full duration of the State Final Itinerary. The winner and runner-up are required to remain in Brisbane until Peoples

Day to perform official duties at the Royal Queensland Show.

9. The winner acts as ambassador for Queensland Ag Shows during her reign and represents the QLD Shows, her Sub Chamber and her local Show Society at any function to which she is invited during the year.

Conditions of Entry

1. An entrant can be any woman who is an Australian citizen and who resides in Queensland, or who is closely affiliated with a Queensland Agricultural Show, aged between 18 and 28 years inclusive as at 1 August in the year of the competition.
2. Should an entrant enter and win a prize or title and does not abide by the above conditions, she will not be eligible for further participation in the Showgirl Awards and will automatically forfeit all prizes and titles associated with the Showgirl Awards.
3. An entrant must have been selected as a current representative of the Showgirl Awards conducted by an affiliated Society to be eligible to compete in the Sub-Chamber and State Final judging of the current year or following year's judging as decided by the representative show society or cub chamber. In the event of the local representative being unable to attend sub-chamber judging and a runner-up had been selected then she may represent at Sub-Chamber level. Previous State Winners and State Runners-Up in the Showgirl Awards are not eligible to enter again. Local and Sub-Chamber Winners and Runners-Up may enter again provided they are not State Winners.
4. Prospective entrants who are employed or are in fulltime studies are advised to ascertain in advance that they are able to obtain leave to attend Sub-Chamber and State Final judging if necessary. The State Finalists will be required to be in Brisbane from the Tuesday afternoon prior to the opening of the Brisbane Exhibition and remain in Brisbane until the State Finalist program concludes on Sunday morning of the first weekend of the Brisbane Exhibition. The ultimate Showgirl Awards winner and Runner-Up must remain in Brisbane to perform official duties up until and including the 'People's Day' Public Holiday of the Royal Queensland Show.
5. State Finalists must participate as a group throughout the entire itinerary, otherwise they must withdraw from the Awards.
6. Entrant must accept that any behavior that will bring disrepute to the Showgirl Awards and is deemed inappropriate by the Showgirl Committee prior to, or during the State Finals, may forfeit their right to participate and no discussion will be entered into.

Key Contacts

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Chairperson

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M: 0447 009 449

Committee Members

Lucy Connolly
Janine Milne

The Competition - An Overview for Showgirl Entrants

Introduction

The Showgirl Awards aims to find a young woman to act as an ambassador for Queensland communities and Queensland Agricultural Shows, with her role involving many official and informal duties both at Royal Queensland Show and during her travel's interstate and overseas.

Showgirls must have a genuine interest in, and knowledge of, regional Queensland. The Competition encourages the participation and subsequent awareness of the women's contribution and involvement in both local communities and rural Queensland as a whole.

This year the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards celebrates 39 years since its inception in 1983. The Competition has come a long way, with the Awards today providing an opportunity to excel in leadership, community involvement, professional development and confidence. It has given many women across Queensland the opportunity to become involved in or increase their involvement in one of the greatest traditions of Australia – their Local Show.

The Showgirl Awards are just one of the many ways young leaders in their community can be recognised by their Local Show. The Showgirl Awards, Rural Ambassador Awards and Young Judges Competition are all hosted by the Queensland Ag Shows – the governing body of all shows across Queensland. Our aim, along with developing connected and resilient women across Queensland, is to broaden the knowledge and participation of our youth in the Show Movement.

The Competition plays a significant role in the overall development of young, strong female leaders and the sustainability of the Agricultural Show movement within Queensland and boasts incredible support from entrants, sponsors and organisers. Sponsorship at a State Final level is worth over \$50,000, which does not take into account Local Show competitions.

Each year the achievement level is heightened and broadened. The entrants meet other young women from across Queensland and gain great insights and personal development through this rare and very relevant experience. The winner of the Showgirl Awards will be awarded the title of the Queensland Country Life Showgirl and will represent Queensland Ag Shows for the following twelve months.

Judging

The contestants are judged on personality, confidence, ambition and life goals, general knowledge, show knowledge, agricultural knowledge including challenges, presentation and speech. Finalists are also asked to demonstrate knowledge of their local community and current affairs. Apart from their potential ambassadorial qualities, contestants are also judged on their involvement in and experience with agricultural shows.

These prerequisites have not changed since the inception of the Showgirl competition in 1983, as the value of these skills has not diminished. The contestants continue to be young women with purpose and ambition.

The Showgirl Awards are an excellent opportunity for young Queensland women to become more involved in their local show and their community. Show Societies decide on how they will stage their Showgirl event – some shows have the private judging prior to or on the day of their show with the announcement taking place during the show. Some Show Societies organise a dinner or ball prior to their show where the contestants are presented and the winner announced. How a competition is facilitated at a local show level is at the discretion of each local Show.

The winning Showgirl of each local Show Society is selected by a panel of three judges and remains Showgirl until the next year's Show. She performs various tasks, which could include opening a Show, public speaking throughout the year or presenting prizes for winner in agricultural events.

Each Show Society is a member of one of 11 Sub-Chambers throughout Queensland. Each local Showgirl will then go onto their Sub-Chamber judging. The Sub-Chamber judging is organised by the Sub-Chamber or a Host Show Society appointed by the Sub-Chamber. This involves a private judging interview with a panel of judges and a public function such as a lunch or dinner. Each Showgirl is required to wear her local Showgirl Sash.

The winning Sub-Chamber Finalist will then go onto the State Final which is held during the Royal Queensland Show in August. The State Final is organised by the State Showgirl Committee.

Sub Chamber Finals - An Overview for Sub Chamber Finalists

Introduction

Sub Chambers Finals is the next step in the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards after an entrant has been successful in becoming the Showgirl for their local Show.

The Sub Chamber final is a prestigious occasion and one that each year is patronised by guests from all over Queensland. There are eleven Sub Chamber Finals in total. Each Sub Chamber Final will select a winning Showgirl who will represent that Sub Chamber at the State Finals of the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Competition during the Royal Queensland Show (the Ekka) in Brisbane.

Being chosen as a Showgirl and then proceeding to the next level is very rewarding and a fun experience. It can also be a fairly daunting one. The following is a brief run-down on the Sub Chamber finals that will hopefully give an insight as to what to expect.

Sub Chamber Coordinator

As with every phase of the Showgirl Competition, each Sub Chamber Final has its own coordinator to organise everything and everybody. He/she will be responsible in every aspect of the organising of the Sub Chamber Final and will be in contact person for the Sub Chamber Final.

Travel and Accommodation

It is suggested that Show Societies provide their Showgirl with support towards the necessary costs of attending Sub Chamber final judging, such as accommodation in larger sub chambers where there is greater distance to travel to attend the finals.

The coordinator of the Sub Chamber final may have pre-booked accommodation at a suitable hotel/motel and will advise either yourself or your local Showgirl Coordinator of where this will be. Contact the Sub Chamber finals coordinator regarding accommodation.

Meals

The Show Society who is hosting the Sub Chamber Final will pay for the Judging Lunch and Presentation Dinner that each Showgirl must attend. All other meals are required to be paid by the Showgirl.

Timetable

The Sub Chamber Final Coordinator will forward to you a copy of the timetable for the day's activities. This will include individual interview times for each Showgirl, the time of the judging lunch (if held) and details of the Presentation Dinner in the evening (if held).

Clothing

All Sub Chamber Finalists are required to wear smart day wear during their day interview and judging lunch. The evening function is a reasonably formal occasion and it is therefore required for all Finalists to be in eveningwear or the dress code advised by the Sub-Chamber coordinator. The minimum dress requirement for all other guests at the Presentation Dinner is lounge suit for men and after-five-wear for women. On some occasions the Sub Chamber Final Host may also make the Presentation Dinner black-tie, however this will be advised closer to the time.

Judges

On the majority of occasions the panel will consist of three judges, preferably with a mixture of males and females.

Judging

The judging criteria for the Sub Chamber Final is very similar to what you would have been judged on at your local Showgirl Competition. This will include:

- Personality, confidence and leadership qualities
- Ambitions and goals
- General knowledge: local, state, national and international
- Agricultural industry knowledge including challenges and how these affect our communities
- Agricultural show movement knowledge, insight and commitment
- Community participation, including agricultural show society
- Personal presentation including conversation and relationship with others
- On-stage interview including public speaking, presentation, confidence and interview responses

It is essential that all Sub Chamber finalists attend each of the segments of the Sub Chamber Final.

Post Sub Chamber Finals

The winner at Sub Chamber Final will receive an information pack regarding the State Finals of the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards. There will be information that the nominated State Finalist will need to provide the State Showgirl Committee. This material will be necessary to put together an information pack for the State Final Judges as well as for promotional purposes.

Completion and submission of this material to State Coordinator is essential.

Enquiries

Should you have any queries regarding the Showgirl Competition at any level, please don't hesitate to contact the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards Coordinator, Ellie O'Hara who will be happy to assist you.

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