

The Bush Telegraph



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THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW

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IT'S SHOWTIME



Charlotte King

The iconic Sydney Royal Easter Show, Australia's largest annual event, is back for another year and promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Now in its 191st year, the Show continues its commitment to celebrating agriculture in a fun, engaging and family-friendly way. This year's event combines traditional favourites with exciting new attractions to ensure young and old alike take something away from their Show experience.

Sydney Royal Easter Show Chief Operating Officer Michael Collins said Sydney Showground was ready to welcome the crowds. "A trip to the Show truly is a feast for all the senses," Mr Collins said. "Be in awe of the District Exhibits, cuddle a cute piglet, learn to shear a sheep, taste award-winning produce and soak up the carnival atmosphere."

The new evening entertainment production, *Australiana In All Its Glory*, will captivate crowds with nostalgic stories told through projected images, oversized puppets and live performances in Spotless Stadium.

Australian agriculture will be celebrated at this year's Show

This year's Show also sees the debut of the Sydney Royal Talk & Taste experience, a gourmet food offering where showgoers can talk to producers, sample their award-winning products and listen to industry experts.

Youngsters can be transported to prehistoric times and encounter life-sized, roaring dinosaurs at the Dinosaur Adventures experience, or can watch in awe as the talented actors from *Goin' Ape – Gorillas in Your Midst* interact like real-life primates.

Other new Show additions include the intricately-decorated Double Decker Carousel and this year's new carnival food offering, the Waffle Dog.

The Bush Telegraph will be delivered daily and include event coverage, competition results, attraction reviews and interviews with unique characters from the Show family.

We encourage you to let your senses run wild when the gates officially open this morning.

SENSATIONAL SHOWBAGS

Claire Fenwicke

Get ready to ignite your senses in the Showbag Hall at this year's Show. Boasting a record 336 showbags, the hall is packed with goodies for any budget. Searching for the ultimate bag is half the fun.

"There's nothing better than the shuffling of showbags, the unmistakable smell of the Showbag Hall and the sweet treats of Jelly Beans and Wonka Chocolate," Sydney Royal Easter Show Chief Operating Officer Michael Collins said.

There are 127 'bargain bags' under \$10 this year, including the always-popular Bertie Beetle Bag. The cheapest bags are the Blinky Bill Bag and Hiller's 'Flip the Tree Frog' Bag, selling for only \$1.

This year isn't just about chocolate and candy, with the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation releasing its first showbag, 'That New Ag Bag'.

Overflowing with Australian agricultural products, including nut bars, rice and biscuits, all produce in the bag has been donated by Australian producers and food companies. The funds raised will go towards scholarships and grants for students in rural NSW. 'That New Ag Bag' can be purchased daily at the Food Farm.

For those after something different this year, there are 28 new showbags on offer, such as the Monopoly Showbag, which includes a cap, playing cards and a Monopoly game.

If sweet treats aren't to your fancy, there are also fitness, sports and games-themed bags up for grabs.

Head to the Showbag Hall to get lost among the mountains of goodies on offer. Visit www.eastershow.com.au/showbags to view a full list of this year's bags.

MEDIA MUST-SEES

Georgina Harris

Some of Australia's largest media outlets and a lucky bunch of Auburn Public School students were treated to a preview of the extravaganza that will be the 2014 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Sydney Royal Easter Show Chief Operating Officer Michael Collins welcomed the special guests at yesterday's media preview. "The animals are in, the entertainment is ready and the food is prepped... it's Showtime," Mr Collins said.

Students got the unique opportunity to get up-close-and-cuddly with some furry four-legged friends at the Farmyard Nursery. The ever-popular Nursery plays host to a range of farmyard animals during the Show including goats, sheep, chickens and ducklings.

The media and school group then took a trip back in time and walked among some pre-historic beasts in the new Dinosaur Adventures attraction. The realistic dinosaurs towered overhead, moving and roaring at the crowd, as they made their way through the simulated rainforest.

Stepping out of the darkness and onto Spotless Stadium, the media was treated to a highlights package of the *Australiana In All Its Glory* entertainment production.

From the enormous dancing Vegemite jars to the youth whipcracking spectacle, the preview was capped off by an appearance from a larger-than-life, five-metre high puppet of Australian icon Dame Edna.

Australiana In All Its Glory Creative Director Di Henry said the evening entertainment program was a "light-hearted view of what makes Australia unique and a bit quirky".

The media preview finished at the all-new Sydney Royal Talk & Taste experience at The Daily Telegraph Park. The media was treated to some freshly shucked rock oysters and a glass of award-winning wine to showcase a selection of gourmet produce that will be on offer at this year's Show.



Media filming at the Sydney Royal Beer and Wine Garden

The Bush Telegraph Editorial Team

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW is proud to provide up-and-coming journalists studying at universities across the country with the opportunity to report on the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Editors: Alexandra Malfroy and Louise Goodwin, RAS

Journalism students: Charlotte King, Claire Fenwicke,

Georgina Harris, Nicole-Irene Economos, Vicki Choh

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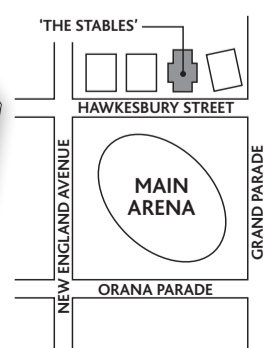
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DISTRICT EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY



Charlotte King

A mirage of cream and brown wool forms a picture of the sky. Pairs of worn work boots, a long way from home, hang from peanut-encrusted trees. Speckled green pumpkins encircle a huge yellow one, each polished to a shine. A life-size merino ram crafted from wool, and shiny red apples placed in perfect rows.

Such is the scene inside the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome, which has been transformed into a sensory delight by the District Exhibits volunteers. Five teams of designers and helpers, under the careful gaze of five passionate Court Organisers, have had just ten days to assemble their masterpieces.

More than 10,000 pieces of fruit and vegetables, alongside mountains of grain and piles of wool, have travelled from the corners of New South Wales and South East Queensland as tributes to the labour of their local producers.

The District Exhibits have been a regular fixture of the Sydney Royal Easter Show since 1900, becoming an annual celebration of Australian agriculture.

Despite many districts experiencing drought conditions yet again, the 2014 District Exhibits are still of an incredibly high standard and promise showgoers an impressive visual display.

Final touches being made to the District Exhibits

More than 50 specialist judges have spent the past week scrutinising the consistency of the jams, the firmness of the creamed honey, the uniformity of pear sizes and the protein count of wheat grains, among other judging categories.

More than 11,200 gross points are up for grabs between the five districts (known as Courts), which represent Central, Northern, Southern and Western New South Wales and South East Queensland.

Three schools are also vying for prizes in the Schools District Exhibits Display Competition, with displays being showcased in the Dome foyer.

You can support your favourite display by visiting the Dome between 9.30am and 11.30am and casting a vote in the People's Choice Award.

Farmers' fresh produce from each District is on sale in the Dome from 9.30am to 8.30pm daily, with the display produce being sold off on the final day of the Show between 3.30pm and 5.30pm.

The District Exhibit Awards Presentation will be held tomorrow at 10.30am in the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome.

A YARN WITH... KERRY PEARCE



Claire Fenwicke

One man rules the roost in the Steggle's Poultry Pavilion, supervising all varieties of chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys.

Kerry Pearce organises the entire poultry section of the Sydney Royal Easter Show, coordinating the competitions and events over the crowing and squawking of hundreds of birds.

Growing up on a dairy farm in the Hawkesbury Valley, Kerry kept and bred Sussex chickens to exhibit in the local Hawkesbury Show.

Kerry was introduced to the Sydney Royal Show by a neighbour who was part of the Poultry Committee and began working casually in the poultry section in 1978.

He became the Coordinator of Poultry Competitions and Events eight years ago and is proud to work for the most prestigious poultry show in the country.

"The Sydney Royal Show has become the premier show, without a doubt, for poultry," Kerry said.

Kerry has always had a love for poultry. He could not recall a time when he did not love birds, and encouraged others to get enthusiastic about them too.

"Poultry are something that people can have in a small area, they don't need a lot of land and, basically, owning poultry encourages people to interact with animals," he said.

According to Kerry, there is plenty to see and do in the Steggle's Poultry Pavilion this year, including chook washing, pat-a-chick and pat-a-chook sessions daily.

As "a bit of a fun attraction" the Pavilion will also play host to a rare chicken breed called the Transylvanian Naked Neck, which can be found roosting in a 'haunted house'.

Australian breeds of poultry are the feature breeds in the Pavilion this year. A limited-edition series of stamps featuring Australian breeds has been released by Australia Post and is available for purchase in the Pavilion.

Make your way to the Steggle's Poultry Pavilion today for the awarding of the Best in Show Bird at 2.30pm.

TASTE AWARD-WINNING PRODUCE



The Sydney Royal Talk & Taste setting (above left) and freshly shucked oysters at Talk & Taste

Nicole-Irene Economos

While traditional carnival treats will no doubt be a hit again at this year's Show, the latest gourmet offering promises to please a more discerning palate.

Food and wine lovers have the opportunity to get their gourmet fix at the all-new Sydney Royal Talk & Taste experience, which offers showgoers the chance to sample award-winning produce in a tranquil park setting.

The exclusive ticketed sessions will run four times a day in The Daily Telegraph Park precinct. Workshop participants have the opportunity to talk to producers, sample products and meet industry experts.

Featuring two producers and their products each day, the program will showcase award-winning products from the Sydney Royal Wine, Dairy and Fine Food competitions.

A diverse range of produce will be showcased, from freshly-shucked oysters and sparkling wines to boutique beer and gourmet pies.

Sydney Royal Talk & Taste Project Director Suzie Lew said

the aim of the sessions was to allow the public to celebrate excellence in Australian produce.

"It is a platform for champion winning producers to promote their products," she said.

A long communal table and alfresco seating will set the mood, with ticket-holders sitting alongside Sydney Royal medal-winners and judges to enjoy the fine selection of local produce, ask questions and participate in discussion.

Some of the sessions will be hosted by well-known food and wine personalities including Lyndey Milan OAM, Simon Marnie from ABC and Fast Ed from Better Homes and Gardens.

The Sydney Talk & Taste sessions offer a unique way to experience the best-of-the-best in Australian food and wine produce at this year's Show.

Sessions will run daily at 11am, 1pm, 3pm and 5pm. Print at home tickets are \$15 per person (RAS members \$10) and can be purchased online at www.eastershow.com.au/tickets.

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