

125 YEARS

Event of the Year

The annual Moree Show is one of the longest running agricultural shows in the history of the North West, this year celebrating it's 125th Anniversary, and as Georgina Poole finds out, it doesn't look like slowing down any time soon.

The Moree community unanimously concluded that this year's Moree Show was one of the best in recent years, bringing it back in line with years past when the annual show was the highlight of the local social calendar. President of the Moree Show Society, John Appleby agreed that the Moree show, held over the Anzac weekend, had been a resounding success.



"We gathered a refreshed committee of dedicated and keen community members, introduced new events to the show, offered a free gate and over the past four years the show has gone from strength to strength."

He said the Moree Show was once again appealing to the wider community and families. "Once the Moree Show was the highlight of the calendar, with people travelling for miles to enjoy a 'car boot picnic' around the main ring." Former Moree Showgirl Sam Von Drehnan said she vividly remembers getting a new outfit each year for the show. "It was such a huge event, we'd go for three full days and everyone would have their boots open around the ring. "There would be an abundance of sponge cakes, tea, coffee and of course whisky for the men – it was a wonderful occasion."

While the horses are still an attraction in the main ring, Mr Appleby said the changing demographics of the shire were reflected through the show. Prizes were awarded at the 1874 show for horses (bloodstock, agriculture, hackneys), Durham and Hereford cattle, fat cattle, Merino sheep, combing wool, fat sheep, coarse-woolled sheep, pigs, dogs, poultry, colonial produce, fruits, and goods manufactured in the district such as saddles. Today, Mr Appleby said only a handful of the agricultural exhibits were still running, however the wool pavilion, yard dog trials and poultry pavilion were still going strong.

"The produce section has dwindled over the years and the cattle section disbanded in about 2004 as it was too soon after the Sydney Royal Show." However Mr Appleby said there had been a recent swing back towards agriculture at the show. "We have Alice MacCue and Toni Jericho from Bellata determined to get the cattle back to the Moree show and they're working on that for next year, and I think



1961 Wool Princess, Lyn Watt

there is strong potential for cotton and more produce exhibits particularly considering this is one of the richest agricultural areas in Australia."

"The Show is such a great event, winning Moree's Community Event of the Year last year and I know now with the right people behind it and the support of the community and local business houses it will continue to keep growing." Words & Images: Georgina Poole

Pictured left: The old wool pavilion

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