



The Moree Show Society is bucking the regional trend with plenty of young ones joining the committee. From left, Erin McAlicee, Georgia Colley, Sarah Crawford, Georgina Poole, Alison Harding, Renee McMillan, Camille Lobsey and Toni Jericho.

Young blood breathes fresh life into Show society

The 125th Annual Moree Show, held over the weekend may have been one of the oldest shows in the State, but its show committee is defying the regional trend, with plenty of young blood helping keep the tradition alive.

While many show societies around the North West have admitted finding it hard attracting young ones to their committees, Moree is an exception.

Moree Show President, John Appleby said the committee was made up of volunteers from all age groups, although half of the committee was under 30.

"We have roughly 40 volunteers and patrons and a large proportion of these are under 30 - it's great having new blood, fresh ideas and renewed enthusi-

asm and it really keeps the show momentum going."

This year's show was one of the most successful in recent years, with approximately 7,000 people through the gates and Mr Appleby was confident the show would finally make a profit.

"The Moree Show has been through a lot over the past decade, only five years ago it was in jeopardy due to a lack of funds, heavy vandalism of showground buildings and a lack of enthusiasm."

Mr Appleby took over the show presidency four years ago, and under his leadership the show has enjoyed a golden renaissance.

"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 three years the show has gone from strength to strength."

Mr Appleby commended the whole committee for their hard work, commitment and vision and said it was inspiring to see so many of the younger generation passionate about the show movement.

"We have a show secretary, treasurer, publicity officer and showgirl co-ordinator all under 30 which it seems is quite unusual these days."

Showgirl Co-ordinator Sarah Crawford's first taste of the show was winning the 2004 Moree Showgirl Competition.

Since then she has been the co-vice president and show girl co-ordinator and

admits being involved has given her a great sense of achievement.

"I've met lifelong friends and it's just been a great experience giving back to the community. "It is a fair bit of work but seeing the smiles on peoples' faces at the show makes it so worthwhile."



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