

The Bush Telegraph

ISSUE 14

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW

APRIL 23, 2014

A SENSATIONAL SHOW



Georgina Harris

Showgoers bask in brilliant autumn weather (above) and the Duke of Cambridge visits the District Exhibits (below)

As the 2014 Sydney Royal Easter Show draws to a close today, it's time to reflect on what a sensational two weeks it's been.

The Show certainly lived up to its Royal name this year, with the Show proudly welcoming the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on Good Friday. The delightful Royal couple visited the District Exhibits, unveiled a plaque to officially open the new exhibition hall, admired craft and floral displays, and enjoyed a sheep shearing demonstration at the Sheep and Wool Pavilion.

The evening entertainment, *Australiana In All Its Glory*, celebrated Australian life and culture. A large Dame Edna puppet, dancing vegemites, evocative rural imagery, a fun soundtrack and an impressive 12-minute firework display dazzled crowds.

Showgoers devoured all the classic Show cuisines, including the all-new Waffle Dog. The Sydney Royal Beer and Wine Garden was once again popular with showgoers keen to escape the crowds and sample award-winning beer and wine. The new Sydney Royal Talk and Taste experience proved a hit, with visitors learning about produce ranging from oysters to hand-made chocolate.

Carnival attractions, including the new Double Decker

Carousel and Freak Out, spun showgoers in a fun frenzy.

The traditional favourites attracted bumper crowds, including the ever-popular woodchopping events, the District Exhibit produce displays and world-class competitions. Prestigious Sydney Royal ribbons were awarded to many exhibitors, representing supreme excellence in their field.

As the last fireworks burst into the air tonight signalling the end of the Show, *The Bush Telegraph* signs off for another year and thanks all those who have read our stories over the past two weeks.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Another Sydney Royal Easter Show is drawing to a close. Over the past two weeks, many wonderful stories have been uncovered and told.

The team that brings you *The Bush Telegraph* is considering ways of reviewing, changing and improving our communication to the 'Show family' during Showtime.

The Bush Telegraph is overseen by the Sydney Royal Easter Show Communications team, and written by journalism students from universities across the country.

We would love to know your feedback on *The Bush Telegraph*.

Do you read *The Bush Telegraph* and if so, how often during Showtime? What articles do you find most interesting and least interesting? What topics would you like to see covered in *The Bush Telegraph*? How do you rate the quality of the stories and the images? What suggestions do you have to improve communication during Showtime?

We would appreciate any feedback and suggestions you may have. Please email your feedback to bushtelegraph@rasnsw.com.au or call the editorial office on 9704 1301, by 30 April 2014.

MINI DODGEMS DELIGHT

Claire Fenwicke

Kids rule the Sydney Royal Easter Show today, with special offers across the Show for the smallest visitors to celebrate Kids Day.

Children aged between four and 15, and school kids (16 to 18 with an ID card), can enter for \$13 before 5pm and enjoy a variety of discounts around the Show. Children under the age of three enter the Show for free.

Families with little ones can start their day at the Kids Carnival, which is full of rides and amusements for children. Get a photo taken with the characters from *The Wizard of Oz* and *How To Train Your Dragon*, before starring in a music video with *The Muppets*.

Kids can go for a spin on rides designed for tiny bodies, including a new attraction, *Cars 4 Kids*. This new dodgem car ride features half-sized cars for little rev-heads, which are small enough for them to ride solo. Ride operator Adrian said the cars were the perfect size for first-time drivers.

"It's for kids only, but parents can ride with them," he said. "Out at the Show you've got rides for all the big people, but this one is ideal for smaller kids."

Many children have already experienced the joy of driving the miniature cars. "It was so much fun, I got to drive by myself," said seven-year-old Emma Wilson. "I crashed into my sister, it was so funny."

Once showgoers have experienced everything at the Kids Carnival, there is the rest of the Show to enjoy, with special offers for rides at the Kids Carnival and Coca-Cola Carnival.

Two-for-one rides are available today, so showgoers can ride with a friend and let their senses run wild. The two-for-one offer excludes the *Sling Shot* and *Hollywood Horrors*.



Cars 4 Kids at the Kids Carnival

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.

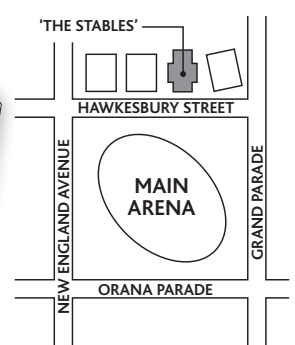
Editors: Alexandra Malfroy and Louise Goodwin, RAS
Journalism students: Charlotte King, Claire Fenwicke, Georgina Harris, Nicole-Irene Economos, Vicki Choh
Photography: Alexandra Adoncello, Elliot Toms
Editorial phone: 02 9704 1301



'THE STABLES'
HAWKESBURY ST
OPEN EVERY DAY 9AM - 7PM
DURING THE ROYAL
EASTER SHOW

Stock Run Out
SALE ON NOW
UP TO **70% OFF** * Plus exclusive
in-store specials!

*Applies to selected items only at 'The Stables'. While stocks last. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer.



FAMOUS FROG ON SHOW



Charlotte King

Karen Russell with her Magnificent Tree Frog, Spotty

Visitors to the Domestic Animals Pavilion yesterday were treated to pets of the scaly kind, with everything from tiny geckos to imposing monitor lizards gathered for the Sydney Royal Frog & Reptile Show.

Judge Brad Walker had a tough job choosing winners in six open classes of lizards and frogs of different ages, species and sizes. Animals were assessed on how well they exemplified the traits of their breed, with points detracted for deficiencies such as tail kinks, battle scars or obesity.

“We also look at the general demeanour of the animal,” said Brad. “That can be a breed characteristic or it also can be how the owner’s gone about handling the animal and interacting with it.”

Brad said judges were also very aware of rewarding owners who bring something new to the hobby of herpetoculture, which is the keeping of live reptiles and amphibians in captivity.

“If we just always chose the same animal it wouldn’t generate an interest, it’s good to have something new and vibrant coming

through,” he said. “And the last factor that we look at is what’s called the ‘wow’ factor.”

One such animal with that ‘wow’ factor was ‘Spotty’, an aptly-named speckled Magnificent Tree Frog, who did his species proud by taking out the Open Tree Frog class for the second year in a row. Owner Karen Russell, of Sydney, keeps a variety of tree frogs in a large enclosure together, which brings out each species’ characteristics.

“The Gillens Tree Frogs are really shy and they like to hide,” Karen said. “The Magnificent ones, meanwhile, love getting out there and showing off.”

Spotty is used to the limelight, having previously featured in a grand final episode of Beauty and the Geek Australia, where he was kissed by a ‘beauty’ but luckily did not turn into a prince.

The Sydney Royal Frog & Reptile Show continues today with the judging of pythons and the awarding of the Grand Champion in the Domestic Animals Pavilion from 9.30am.

GOODBYE FROM INTERNS



Nicole-Irene Economos

The Bush Telegraph journalism interns with photographer Elliot Toms

From Best in Show awards to the Waffle Dog, *The Bush Telegraph* interns came, wrote and conquered in covering this vibrant event.

While we leave the Show slightly exhausted, we are grateful for having participated in this unique experience. Interning at *The Bush Telegraph* over the past two-and-a-half weeks has been a strenuous, but extremely colourful and rewarding experience, and one that we will never forget.

Attending as a showgoer each year, my experience has always been spectacular, but this internship has given me an insight into the dedication of the people who work, volunteer, compete and exhibit each year.

At *The Bush Telegraph*, we truly learnt something new every day. We were also lucky enough to interview a diverse range of people, who all share one thing – a passion for the Show.

It was not only our journalistic skills that were honed and finessed, but also our ability to work as part of a team on a daily project. It many ways, it never really felt like work; not

because we didn’t work hard, but because the Show was such a fascinating and eclectic place.

Coming from different universities, each intern brought their own unique style and flair, which was immensely helpful to the newspaper’s production and always interesting.

In terms of guidance and editing, we extend our appreciation to editors Alexandra Malfroy and Louise Goodwin. Their tireless energy and feedback was paramount to producing the paper each day.

As I look back on my Show experience, it will be the little things I will miss. I’ll miss seeing smiles on the faces of showgoers, meeting the members of the Show family, the puns thrown around the office and the spirit that makes the Show so remarkable.

Where ever you are reading this final edition of *The Bush Telegraph* for 2014, I hope you have enjoyed the content as much as we have enjoyed researching and writing it.

A YARN WITH... KEEGAN NYE



Vicki Choh

Managing the Farmyard Nursery, a classic favourite among showgoers, is not for the faint-hearted or the highly disorganised.

Keegan Nye, a self-professed time management addict, is the man responsible for ensuring that all runs smoothly at his family-run Farmyard Nursery and that nobody is “sticking their fingers into the mouths of sheep”.

There are hundreds of animals at the Nursery, including goats, sheep, ducks, geese and newly hatched chicks. He is also tasked with presenting at the fun-filled Wash-a-Pig and Pat-a-Pig demonstrations at the Pig Pavilion.

Keegan may be plagued by bouts of hay fever for as long as he could remember, but that does not prevent him from keeping a watchful and loving eye over his family’s business and animals for nearly 30 years.

As a schoolboy, he would feed the animals and clean the pens at his family-owned Golden Ridge Animal Farm at Dural, before going to school.

“My childhood was definitely a lot different to other kids’ who grew up in the city,” he said.

A lot of his work as a farmyard operations manager revolves around human interaction.

“We don’t just work with animals, we work with people,” Keegan said. “You’ve got to be very flexible and outgoing to work with both. You also have to be self-aware and aware of the people around you.”

For Keegan, seeing the heartfelt emotions that animals can bring out in people are a highlight of his working life. Keegan recalled a time when Magda, a mute patient at a senior’s home, begun to break out of her quiet shell through animal therapy.

“Magda couldn’t talk to anyone. But once we put a chicken on her lap, she started talking to it. She just sat there and talked to the chicken for hours,” he said. “That is something that will always stick with me.”

Keegan said showgoers could expect a Farmyard Nursery that is “bigger and better” next year.

“Hopefully we can enlighten everyone’s senses when they join us next year,” he said. “Expect the unexpected... you will not be disappointed.”

Sydney Royal

Sydney Royal Café

Serving a mouth-watering menu featuring Sydney Royal awarded produce

Arts & Crafts Pavilion

Breakfast, lunch and dinner served daily 8:00am until 9:00pm