

SHOWGIRL
INFORMATION

THE COMPETITION

An Overview for Showgirl Entrants

Introduction

The Showgirl Competition aims to find a young woman to act as an ambassador for rural NSW with her role involving many official and informal duties both at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and during her travels interstate and overseas.

It is not a beauty pageant. Most importantly the Showgirls must have a genuine interest in, and knowledge of, rural NSW. The Competition encourages the participation and subsequent awareness of rural women's contribution and involvement in both local communities and rural NSW as a whole.

In 1962, 20 young ladies entered the first Showgirl Competition. The Winner, Miss Margaret McKay, the late Mrs Margaret Pennefather, RAS Councillor, was awarded a sash, a silver tray and 250 pounds, as first prize. The competition has come a long way in its 50+ years and now, in 2019, approximately 300 young women annually enter the competition throughout NSW with competitions being held in 100 Show Societies.

The Competition plays a significant role in the overall development of rural youth within this country and boasts incredible support from entrants, sponsors and organisers. Sponsorship at a State level is worth over \$40,000 in cash and prizes, which do not take into account local Show competitions.

Each year the achievement level is heightened and broadened. The contestants meet other young women from rural NSW and gain great insights and personal development through this very rare experience.

Judging

The contestants are judged on personality, confidence, ambition and life goals, general knowledge, rural knowledge, presentation and speech. Finalists are also asked to demonstrate knowledge of their local community and current affairs and apart from their potential ambassadorial qualities, contestants are also judged on their involvement in and experience of rural affairs.

These prerequisites have not changed since the inception of the Showgirl competition in 1962, as the value of these skills has not diminished. The contestants continue to be young rural women with purpose and ambition.

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, presenting prizes for winners in agricultural events etc.

Each local Show Society is a member of one of fifteen groups (Group 15, the ASC Youth Group, is a non-geographical Group). Two groups combine to form one of seven Zones that make up the NSW area. In February/March of each year, Zone Finals are held in which each of the Zones select, from all the winners put forward by each of the individual Societies, a representative for the State Final.

THE LAND SYDNEY ROYAL SHOWGIRL COMPETITION 2020

The number of representatives a Zone can have is based on the total number of entrants: if 1–10 Zone Finalists then a Zone can have one (1) State Final representative; 11–17 Zone Finalists then two (2) State Final representatives. Zone 6 or 7 can have three (3) State Final representatives where more than 17 entrants. The Judges for the Zone Finals are provided by the ASC.

The State Final for the Competition is conducted by the RAS at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and usually has between 15 and 18 entrants. Judges are nominated by the RAS with the judging being conducted over a six day period.

Prizes for 2020

Please note prizes are subject to change without notice

1st Place

\$7,500 courtesy of Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Ltd and The Land newspaper

2nd Place

\$3,500 courtesy of the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Ltd and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

3rd Place

\$2,000 courtesy of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Ltd

All Showgirl Finalists receive:

Seven days in Sydney during the Royal Easter Show – expenses paid

(expenses include accommodation in Sydney, meals and travel within State Finalists itinerary)

Timetable

Judging at a local level takes place throughout the year at each of the participating local Show Societies with the judging for Zone Finals being conducted in February/March of each year and the State Final during the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Dates for Zone and State Finals are as follows:

Zone 1 Final	Taree	Saturday, 15 February 2020
Zone 2 Final	Hawkesbury	Saturday, 22 February 2020
Zone 3 Final	Crookwell	Saturday, 29 February 2020
Zone 4 Final	Dorrigo	Saturday, 08 February 2020
Zone 5 Final	Gresford	Saturday, 1 February 2020
Zone 6 Final	Dubbo	Saturday, 22 February 2020
Zone 7 Final	Finley	Saturday, 15 February 2020
State Final Program	Sydney Royal Easter Show	Tuesday 31 March – Monday 6 April 2020
State Final Presentation	Sydney Royal Easter Show	Sunday 05 April 2020

Entry Requirements

1. The Competition is open to those who are permanent residents of Australia.
2. Entrants must be women aged from **18 years to less than 25 years as at 1 May in the year of the State Final.**
3. Entrants must reside, be educated, or work within New South Wales for at least three months prior to their local Showgirl Competition to qualify to compete within the State.
4. Only candidates nominated by an Agricultural Show Society are eligible for Zone and State Final judging.
5. Previous entrants in the Showgirl Competition are eligible to enter however they are not to have been one of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd placegetters in a previous State Final.
6. The following people are not eligible to enter the Showgirl Competition:
 - a. Staff, Directors and Councillors of both the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW ("RAS") and Agricultural Societies Council of NSW ("ASC")
 - b. The daughters of the Staff, Directors and Councillors of the RAS and ASC.
 - c. Current Rural Achiever applicants for the 2019 Sydney Royal Show
7. Winning entrants who are employed or engaged in full time studies will be required to obtain a leave of absence to attend Zone and State Final Judging.
8. The winning Showgirl is requested, where possible, to represent the RAS, ASC and their local Show Society at agricultural shows.
9. The State Final Judging will take place in Sydney from Tuesday 31 March 2020 and conclude on Monday 06 April 2020, with the State Final Presentation on Sunday 05 April 2020 at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Finalists will be guests of the RAS whilst in Sydney, but will be required to pay their own travelling expenses to and from Sydney.
10. The winner of the State Final and the first runner up will be required to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS until Thursday 09 April 2020 to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show unless granted an exemption by the RAS of NSW. Other finalists may leave Sydney on Monday 06 April 2020 after all official Showgirl Functions.
11. All entrants are to abide by the Showgirls' Code of Conduct, as set out by the RAS and the ASC, when acting as an ambassador for RAS, ASC or their local Show Society.

For further details and entry forms please contact your local Show Society or the ASC on 02 9879 6777 or email nicky.seeto@ascfnsw.org.au