

2018 President's Report

It is often difficult to quantify why a committee such as ours continues to volunteer our time in the running of the show. We are all exceptionally busy with work, family and other volunteer roles, and often, if only for a limited time, the show takes precedence over what may be deemed more important. Certainly, there is a sense of gratification when the show falls on a lovely day, there is excellent patronage and positive feedback, but is that enough? At a time where suburban shows are on the decline through lack of funding and interest, country shows are maintaining their status quo, namely through the efforts of volunteers. I don't believe any of us are bound by some inane sense of duty to continue the show – so why do we?

I cannot speak for the committee, but upon reflection, I believe the show helps to provide a catalyst for a stronger community through social and economic engagement. Small communities such as ours benefit from social interaction, both at and leading up to events such as the show. This interaction helps give us a sense of belonging and worth; and when those involved with the show can come together to discuss not just the show, but other facets of our lives, we place ourselves in a position to value our neighbours. And of course, there's a lot of funny shit that happens around the running of a show that gives us all a laugh.

I have valued all contributions made by the committee throughout my first year as president. Everyone has been extremely generous with their time, skills and good humour along the way.

And now the thank you list – just the highlights:

Moyra, thank you for having to take the extra load both with the family, the show catalogue, website, Facebook and my erratic nature.

Jo and Crock – Answering the million questions, sponsorships, equestrian, advertising, trouble-shooting and booze distribution.

Ann and John – the amazing secretarial abilities, the care and getting it done.

Charles and Sally – continuing the one and only target range, the sheep, the yards, the industrious hall and the cute children.

Josh and Helen – the setting up, the running, the packing down, the heartache that is the shearing competition.

Trish and George – keeping the money flowing and the T's crossed and the I's dotted.

Tash – having the most organised and delicious grandstand food in Tassie

Scotty and Mary-Lou – giving John Laws a run for his money in the box, providing sage advice and pouring a mean G & T

Andrew – Organising sheep, yards, dogs and spectators

Brett and Sharee – the council influence, the ground space, the hay, the fastest painting in the south and manoeuvring often difficult exhibitors into position

Bernard – being number one traffic controller

Brett – organising new exhibitors, and relentless set-up and pack-down duties

Anthony – the best attended dog high-jump in the country and convincing us to run the grand parade.

Chris and Jane – getting the most out of the sponsors, star picket duties and superb cooking on the BBQ.

Dave and Maree – getting the wool from all those sheep, finding all those animals to pat and lending tools that you may never get back.

Tam and Ian – Ensuring that everyone had their prize and the efforts with the grandstand food

Tom Shoobridge and Family – the organising of the camp draft, the cattle, yards, trucks and continual generosity to the show.

George – The meanest set of tongs in Hamilton, and showcasing the nervous flock of sheep next to the BBQ

Carl and Jan – The commitment to an amazing new attraction that none of us would have considered 10 years ago.

James and Helen – organising the BBQ order sheet and helping with the set up and pack down.

Cate and Roger – for making us jealous.

I know the committee as well as many other volunteers were responsible for countless other efforts in the running of the show, but the report can only be so long. So there.

Below is the president's report sent to the Highland's digest.

Families flock to the Hamilton Show

“Great show mate. The kids were happy but exhausted!” Was said by a patron on his departure from the 65th Hamilton Show. The comment was, I believe, reflective of a show that continues to support the values of agriculture within the area while engaging families, particularly children.

As is often the case, glorious weather draws strong numbers to the show, and patrons came out in force to enjoy the entertainments for the day. More than 2500 entered the gates, displaying wonderful support for the show. The strong turnout of numbers certainly provides assurance for the show committee and volunteers that their efforts are recognised and valued.

The majority of show events began at nine am with a strong field of competitors in all classes. Congratulations to all entrants, winners and organisers for their commitment and success in their events. As is often the case there needs to be some special mentions: Scott Reardon, of Rockford for his grand champion fleece of the show; Robert Glover for winning the open shearing competition; Kirrasumm Kidz for most successful miniature goat exhibitor; Tim Williams for winning the open show jumping on Jelly Stone Park Party Time; Jinx Hogarth for winning the restricted camp drafting; and of course bullet and his handler Adam Lane for reaching two metres in the dog high jump.

New exhibitors provided continual entertainment throughout the day. Ricky Cooper sliced the air with his whip cracking demonstration, the Sands Family Circus delighted with their acrobatic skills, and the hands-on dairy goat attraction made a great splash!

Hungry appetites were sated by the excellent selection of culinary delights from the grandstand and the hospitality shed. Hungry show goers enjoyed an excellent array of cakes, sandwiches, souvlakis, roast lamb rolls, BBQ meats and dipped Dagwood dogs. The newly released Lawrenny Estate Distillery gin and vodka was a fantastic addition to the selection of local wines and beers and was enjoyed by many.

The success and longevity of the Hamilton Show can only be sustained through the commitment from the volunteers, sponsors, competitors, exhibitors, local council, and patrons. I am extremely grateful for everyone's efforts for volunteering their time, resources, and sleep to ensure the 2018 show was a success.

See you at the show in 2019.

Will Chapman