

President's Report 2018

It is with pleasure that I present this report on the activities of the Longreach Show Society for the year 2018.

And so this drought continues, a consecutive 6th...7th for some.

In our Constitution it states that the aim of this Society is for:-

- The Improvement of livestock
- The encouragement of agricultural pursuits
- The encouragement of Arts & Crafts, especially among the young generation

And I would add, providing the Community the opportunity of coming together to enjoy the pursuit of competition, exhibition, information and entertainment.

This is a tough call in this unrelenting drought, what is remarkable is the resilience of this community, noted by many. This Show Committee and our many wonderful volunteers have all given their very best during this difficult year to produce an outstanding show, with a jamb packed program, and our incredible sponsors, all suffering financially themselves, have made its fruition possible.

Such spirit was evident in bucket loads at our Annual Show this year, where our sponsors were again so generous, competition was strong in nearly all Sections, and the Show was well supported with a large attendance of 2395. Rewarding for the Committee, and indicative of the communities appreciation of good entertainment and a wide breadth of well organised competition and activities.

Our Show kicked off again on Friday in the Horse Section Arena. Friday night saw a very well attended Sponsors Drinks, generously supported by Landmark, and the Team Penning Competition organised by the Rodeo Association. Our sincere thanks to Lawrence Monize and his team for running this very popular competition and to Rob and Jule McClymont for providing the cattle, a generous contribution when the season is so tight. Our thanks to Rotary for again providing the barbeque, and with Side Show Alley whirling for the first time on the Friday night, it all helped to create a very pleasant evening for those who attended.

Show Day.

The Wool Court was a joy to visit....almost unrecognisable. More work has been generously undertaken through the year by the RESQ Team, providing much better lighting, reorganising the sheep pens, and cementing a further area for the Merino Markets with Council's financial support. Paul Grams put in a superb effort gathering 233 fleeces for the Wool Section competition, bigger than the State Sheep Show, and again including fleeces from neighbouring districts. The Wool Court was outstanding and I am told by agents that Longreach is the jewel in the crown of Queensland's Wool Shows.....Congratulations Paul.

Macca again produced a wonderful Merino Markets, another great success this year, and an ever popular Fashion Parade. This is a big job, everyone loves a parade, and it's such a plus for the Show. Thank you Macca for this great effort, you made such a difference.

We all enjoyed Dom Burden's very competent and spirited approach to the Flock Ewe Section. This was his first year as Head Steward, and as well as providing plenty of light entertainment for us all, he managed to gather by any means an impressive 32 pens, a great result for such a drought stricken district. Thank you Dom.....

Our thanks to Peter Thomas for again managing all those Pastoral College students in the Junior Judging Competitions. There were a couple of promising students competing in both the Sheep and Wool Sections, and it's important for the Sheep Industry that we continue to promote this expertise amongst the young.

Dean Allen secured 44 head, steers and heifers, for the Cattle Section competition, another great effort in this current season. Thank you Dean for your efficient management, and another thank you to Tony Rayner and his RESQ team who virtually rebuilt the cattle yards this year. We now have an excellent set of yards. This has been a significant contribution to the Show Society.

The Royalla Shorthorn Stud NSW, held a bull sale on the Saturday afternoon, and secured a total clearance of 15 bulls averaging \$6,167 p.h. with the top price of \$17,000. Their commission was much appreciated by this Society, and our thanks to Bill Seeney for organising this.

The Arts and Crafts Pavilion has at last been renovated under Julie Gennings watchful eye and attention to detail. It is a great result from a \$35,000 grant secured after last year's Show, and when I asked Julie after this year's Show if there were any issues or jobs that needed doing, she couldn't think of one! Thank you Julie for overseeing this work so effectively. The Pavilion is always a joy, and so full of interest and activity. Thank you Julie and your hard working team for running this Pavilion so well.

For the first time, a Children's Poet's Corner was held, with some amazing young participants. This was well supported by show patrons, and has potential to be developed further. The Pet Parade followed, with some pretty interesting costumes, our thanks to Susan McClymont and the Longreach Vet Clinic for organising this popular event, with no expense to the Show Society.

Mick Bichsel very competently managed the Horse Section for the first time this year. Thank you Mick, we have heard nothing but glowing reports of your management. Our sincere thanks to Kirsten Forrest, John Arnold, Tony Rayner, Nikki Gay, Jo Thomas and all their hard working stewards. This is a big and busy Section. Special thanks to Kirsten Forrest who will be stepping down as Jumps Manager. She has been a great help in the running of the Jumping Section over these past years, and leaves a wonderful legacy of those magnificent new jumps she sourced for us last year. We all are still admiring them, and how fabulous does the Jumping Arena look now? A special thank you to Kristen Grant, who did a wonderful job securing so much sponsorship and many generous trophy donors for the Horse Section.

On Friday, we unveiled the BQ Deane Jump Shed, followed by a luncheon. Barty's entire immediate family attended, some from NSW, and we were very pleased to welcome them, as we recognised and honoured Show stalwart Barty Deane, his instigation of, his outstanding contribution to, and his expertise in Horse Sports in Western Queensland. He instigated Pony Club, Polocrosse, the Western Queensland Equestrian Federation, and was three times selected for consecutive Olympic Equestrian Squads. Rome in 1960, Japan in '64 and Los Angeles in '68.....Pretty amazing for a Western Queensland bushie.

My thanks again to Peter Oakey for managing the hassle free Poultry Pavilion so well. He always runs it with a small profit and never seems to have any problems. What an asset!

For the first time this year, Amy Elson and Lisa Lloyd ran our new Camp Oven Competition, with much help and sponsorship from the ever supportive Alan Smith and his Outback Aussie Tours. This was a great hit, a crowd pleaser! Us old "Die Hards" were absolutely fascinated with these two new Committee Members, both Occupational Therapists, who had arrived not even knowing what a camp oven was. How impressed were we....This is what country Show Committees should be about. They even managed to secure one of the Show's Guest Speakers of Rugby League fame, Shane Webke, to judge the dampers. Well done girls!

Another new Committee Member Claire Nolan, a Speech Therapist, ran the Ute Muster....another amazement to me! It was so good to see this competition return....every country show should have one, and we will make sure their site is closer to the crowd next year. We also had a Classic Cars display, it always provides interest for Show patrons, and my thanks to Claire and Keith Johnson for these events.

Our Trade Displays were down this year, but those we did have seemed happy with their day. My thanks to Russel Lowry for the time he has given to this Section over the past few years. I'm hoping we might be able to secure some Industry Technology next year, as this would be of interest to many Show patrons.

Our new Site/Space Manager this year was Dan Walker. What a breath of fresh air he is, overseeing all the exhibitors and vendors sites with his courteous and accommodating manner. Thank you Dan for your time, we love having you on board, nothing seems a problem. Thank you to both you and Russell for organising the Grand Parade so well, and on time!

We felt quite honoured this year to have the Federal Minister for Northern Australia, Matt Canavan officially open the Show, as well as the Federal Minister for Agriculture, David Littleproud, who opened the Show last year, in attendance. Also attending was our local State Member Lachlan Miller...we were well supported with "Pollies" and we appreciated their time and support very much.

These three pollies addressed a Political Forum on matters of local interest after lunch, and not only answered many questions from the floor, but made themselves available, mingling through the crowd, for the rest of the day. Just prior to that Forum, the Western Queensland Drought Committee launched their much anticipated Beyond the Dust Report, and Matt took their recommendations and concerns to Federal Cabinet, which was sitting the following week in Canberra.

And just prior to that, Shane Webcke gave an excellent address on Woolshed Safety. It was a very impassioned address as his father had been tragically killed as a result of a shearing shed accident. Thank you to Dom Burden for organising Shane's visit, he was excellent, and to Nicole Bond for conducting the Forum.

The Production Wether Competition.....Doug Allpass, I can't thank you enough for running this valuable competition as seamlessly and efficiently as you do every year. Thank you to those who help you, including Greg Hunt, David Grant and Rayleen Bowden and my thanks to David Council and the Longreach Pastoral College who have

been running the wethers this past very dry year, and the LPC for making their shearing shed available. Due to the drought, the wethers have been sold, leaving this Section with a tidy profit of \$13,015.53. This Section will lie dormant, till the seasons improve and the district has lambs on the ground again.

I also can't thank Tony Jackson enough for another seamless performance with both Sheep Dog Trials. There were 95 dogs in the Central Western Qld Championships including some from interstate and 9 in the Short Course Trials on Show day. Tony never fails to run this Section efficiently, at no cost to the Show Society, thanks to his generous sponsorship. Thank you Tony, you do an amazing job every year, and you are well respected by all those involved in Sheep Dog Trials throughout Australia....lucky us! Thank you to the Forrests for providing the sheep for the Dog Trials, and as always, it was much appreciated.

Thank you to David Grant who very generously gave two shearing demonstrations again this year. This continues to promote the Wool Industry and is an interesting display for the many tourists who visit our Show. David is such a skilled shearer and is always a pleasure to watch.

My thanks to Lawrence Monize and his band of helpers for running the very popular Dog High Jump. It's such a crowd pleaser, and the Milne's Sasha thrilled us again this year, by winning the competition. The Milne's also generously sponsored the Dog Jump.

My thanks to Richard Simpson, for running the Sheep Races and Auction, the RESQ men for man handling the panels needed to hold the sheep, and the LPC for providing the sheep.

Our sincere thanks to Marsha Osborne and Sharon Grams for providing all those delicious meals throughout the day. Using the Wavy Pavilion as a Food Court seemed well received by Show patrons. While commenting on food matters, I would like to acknowledge John Palmer and the Scout movement, who for many years have sold hamburgers and soft drinks at the Show. This contribution over the past decades has been a great support to the Show, and has been much appreciated by us all.

Our sincere thanks also to the Pastoral College Students who were very helpful and punctual...we all commented, and to the State Primary School P&C who did a mighty job, running the bar so efficiently. Thank you too Tony Jackson, for being our Bar Representative, nothing ever seems a problem, you always find hassle free solutions.

My sincere thanks to our own Miss Queensland Show Girl 2017, Claire Jackson for running our Show Girl Competition and Meg Bassingthwaighte for running the Rural Ambassador Competition, as well as the Young Farmers Competition. These two competitions take a lot of organising, and you both managed them so well. The entrants appeared very relaxed before the judging...on the surface anyway....and most importantly, enjoyed the journey. Lucy Griffin won the Miss Show Girl and Melanie Groves the Rural Ambassador. Unfortunately, neither of them were able to compete further.

To celebrate Claire Jackson's State win in August last year, and to raise awareness of these competitions, we held a lunch at the Longreach Anzac Race Meeting in April. It was well attended, a very pleasant afternoon, and it raised \$470 for the Show Society.

Our sincere thanks to the Firies who did a great job as always, manning the gates. And the Longreach Regional Council who, in their sponsorship, made free entry possible for children and pensioners this year.

We have 75 members, nearly double on last year's figures. We have \$78,145.18 in our bank account as of yesterday, \$10,000 in the George Avery Bursary account, and over \$12,000 still to come in from the Local Government Grants to shows. A total of just over \$100,000 as we move into planning for next year's show. Up on last year, this is a very pleasing result considering some of the entertainment cost a lot more than it should have this year, and we purchased 40 tables, to save on future hire charges. However this money belongs to the community, and we must make sure we use it wisely to produce a great show for next year.

I mentioned at the start of this report, the great generosity of our sponsors, especially in these difficult times. We thank them and appreciate very much their wonderful support. It would not be possible for the Show to continue without this financial support.

In particular I want to thank the Longreach Regional Council, who has been so generous in their support and sponsorship to us, and has provided much financial help with infrastructure, including further cementing in the Sheep & Wool Pavilion, and power upgrades this year.

Also, a huge thank you to Tony Rayner and RESQ for their very generous sponsorship, and with the help of their depleted but very able workforce, they have been amazing in their help and support of the Show.

In these past three years, thanks to Tony Rayner, RESQ the LRC, the Sheep & Wool Pavilion has been totally renovated, outside Sheep Pens repaired and painted, Rodeo and Cattle Yards virtually rebuilt, repairs to the Horse Stalls, Arena and grandstands, significant power upgrades, renovations to the Secretary's Office, major renovations to the Arts and Crafts Pavilion, supported by a grant and RESQ helping out at times, new Jumps and a new trailer to carry them, also supported by a grant and RESQ, a good clean out of the Poultry Pavilion by RESQ, a freshly painted toilet block, and a much smarter, renovated Front Entrance, with flowering garden beds and a number of trees planted. There has been much praise for the presentation of the grounds....and they looked amazing on Show day!

This support has not only been of great benefit to the Show Society, but also to other organisations who use the Show Grounds for their own events and activities.

Thank you to those not on Committee but who have run competitions, displays or demonstrations on Show day, those who transport stock, fodder or equipment for us.....often free of charge, food providers, stewards, judges, and so many volunteers and helpers on the day. We simply could not run this Show without their willing help and support.

My sincere thanks to this wonderful proactive Committee, who have contributed so well at every meeting, and given so much time, thought and effort to organising their own particular Section...and have given me so much support. We have achieved a lot this year, and importantly, did provide a jamb packed program for our patrons on Show Day.

A very big thank you to Douglas, our Treasurer, for the great work he has done this year in establishing the Bank Link program for the Society. I am thrilled with his report, I have appreciated the time he has given it, and feel the Society's Finances are at last transparent, as they should be. This transparency will now give us a much better chance of managing our funds effectively and delivering a better show.

And a huge thank you to Ingrid, our capable Secretary, who is always "on the ball". This Society is very fortunate to have her in this role, and I've enjoyed and appreciated working with her very much....she is professional and always willing and happy to do anything asked of her.

I cannot thank the two Vice President Tonys enough for the support, time and effort that they have given to the Show Society, and for their wonderful support of me in these past three years. They have always been there for me, made my job much easier, and I have appreciated that so much.

We are all very sorry that Tony Rayner has had to retire from his position as Show Vice President, due to ill health. This is a great loss to the Show Society, and indeed to the community. We will miss his wisdom, contribution and courteous, professional manner. We wish him a speedy recovery, and hope that in the near future he will be well enough to return to the Show Committee, as he has been invaluable to this Society.

I could not have wished for a better team. You have contributed with effort and resolve to produce a great show for everyone. This show is a major event for the community each year. It gives a great opportunity to show case Longreach and District, and to provide the community with that competition, exhibition, information and entertainment.

This has been my third year as Show President, and I have loved my job and its challenges. I have loved working with you all, and as much as I would be happy to continue if required, I don't think it would be in the Show's best interests. It's healthy to have change, and as we have a very strong Committee, and an excellent contender for this position, I feel the Show will be in excellent hands to continue to improve and provide a great Show for the entire community. My very best wishes to you all for many more successful shows in the future.

Thank you.

Margie Webb

President

Longreach Show Society Inc.