

QUEENSLAND
Country Life
Showgirl
Awards



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Information & Guidelines for Shows hosting Sub Chamber Finals

Queensland Country Life Miss Showgirl Awards
Hosted by Queensland Ag Shows

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Contents

An overview on the Showgirl Awards	2
Conditions of Entry	3
Key Contacts.....	3
Guidelines for organising A Sub Chamber Showgirl and Rural ambassador Judging	4
Budget.....	4
Sponsors.....	5
Venue	5
Accommodation.....	5
Compere.....	5
Entertainment.....	6
Printing.....	6
Judging Lunch & Interview Location	6
Judges.....	6
Entrants.....	6
Program.....	7
Judges Information	7
Timetable	7
Reigning Sub Chamber Winner Responsibilities	7
Sashes.....	7
Badges/Rosettes	8
Invitations & Dinner Passes	8
Catering.....	8
Entertainment.....	8
Accommodation.....	9
Gifts.....	9
Decorations.....	9
Judging Day	9
Sub-Chamber Final Evening Presentation.....	9
Post Sub-Chamber Final	10
2019 Winners and State Finalists of the Miss Showgirl Awards.....	10

An overview on the Showgirl Awards

The following is a brief explanation on the running of the Showgirl Awards from Local Level to the State Final in Brisbane:

1. The State Showgirl Committee will prepare each year an updated copy of the Conditions and Guidelines which can be downloaded from www.queenslandshows.com.au. Promotional information can be displayed in shops and/or local newspapers etc. by the local Show Society. Young women enter the Awards by contacting the Show Society and must complete the nomination form.
2. There is no entry fee for the Awards and money does not need to be raised by the entrants. It is up to the individual Show Society if fundraising is required however this is entirely at Local Show Level only and is not part of the State Showgirl Awards Conditions and Guidelines.
3. Many Local Show Societies incorporate other age groups e.g. Junior Showgirl etc. These categories are held separate from the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards and conditions of entry and guidelines for running these events are entirely left to the individual Show Society.
4. The winning Showgirl of a local Show Society is selected by a panel of preferably three judges who are nominated by the local Show Society or Showgirl Steward of that Society. It is recommended to Societies that these judges are from outside the district and consist of two females and one male however this is not mandatory. The Showgirl retains the role for one year until the next Show and could perform various tasks which could include opening the Show, public speaking throughout the year, presenting prizes for winners in agricultural events, assisting in organising the next Showgirl Competition for the following year's show and encouraging entry by speaking with potential candidates.
5. On completion of a Local Showgirl Competition, each Show Society returns a copy of the Nomination Form and Profile Form A of the entrant selected as their Showgirl to their Sub Chamber Secretary or Sub Chamber Showgirl Coordinator. This must be done as soon as possible.
6. Following an entrant's success at their local Show, the Showgirl then goes on to a Sub Chamber Judging. Each local Show Society is a member of one of 11 Sub Chambers who come under parent organisation of the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies (QLD Ag Shows). Sub-Chamber Judging's are held at various times however must be held prior to June 30 of the State Final year. Each Sub Chamber appoints a coordinator to organise their Sub Chamber Judging.
7. The State Final for the Showgirl Awards is conducted by the QLD Ag Shows State Showgirl Committee. Sponsors, itinerary, judges etc for the State Final are organised by the State Showgirl Committee. In addition to an interview the girls partake in various social and public speaking functions in which many elements are judged. A Presentation Ceremony is held at the Royal Queensland Show where the Showgirl and Runner-Up are announced. A Celebration Dinner is held following the Presentation Ceremony where the Finalist chosen as Miss Popular is announced.
8. Whilst in Brisbane the Showgirls, along with the Committee attend a variety of functions and activities. All Finalists are required to stay in Brisbane for the full duration of the State Final Itinerary. The winner and runner-up are required to remain in Brisbane until Peoples

Day to perform official duties at the Royal Queensland Show.

9. The winner acts as ambassador for Queensland Ag Shows during her reign and represents the QLD Shows, her Sub Chamber and her local Show Society at any function to which she is invited during the year.

Conditions of Entry

1. Entrants must be unmarried, aged from 18 to 28 years inclusive as of the 1st August in the year of competition. The Awards are open to women born in Australia or Australia Citizens
2. The ultimate winner must remain unmarried until the conclusion of the Royal Queensland Show. Entrants must not have been married or have had or having a child prior to State Final Judging.
3. Should an entrant enter and win a prize or title and does not abide by the above conditions, she will not be eligible for further participation in the Showgirl Awards and will automatically forfeit all prizes and title associated with the Showgirl Awards.
4. An entrant must have been selected as a current representative of the Showgirl Awards conducted by an affiliated Society to be eligible to compete in Sub-Chamber and State Final Judging of the current year or following year's judging as decided by representative show society or sub chamber. In the event of the local representative being unable to attend sub-chamber judging and a runner-up had been selected then she may represent at Sub-Chamber level. Previous State Winners and State Runners-Up in the Showgirl Awards are not eligible to enter again. Local and Sub-Chamber Winners and Runners-Up may enter again providing they are not State Winners.
5. Prospective entrants who are employed or are still in fulltime studies are advised to ascertain in advance that they are able to obtain leave of absence to attend Sub-Chamber and State Final judging if necessary. The State finalists will be required to be in Brisbane from the Wednesday morning prior to the opening of the Brisbane Exhibition and remain in Brisbane until state finalist duties conclude Sunday morning of the first weekend of Brisbane Exhibition. The ultimate Showgirl Awards winner must remain in Brisbane to perform official duties up till and including the 'People's Day' holiday of the Royal Queensland Show.
6. State Finalists must participate as a group in the entire itinerary; otherwise they must withdraw from the contest.
7. Entrants must accept that any behavior that will bring disrepute to the Showgirl Awards and is deemed inappropriate by the Showgirl Committee, prior to or during the State Finals, may forfeit their right to participate and no discussion will be entered into.

Key Contacts

Ellie O'Hara
Chairperson

E: qldshowgirl@gmail.com
M: 0447 009 449

Committee Members

Lucy Connolly

Janine Milne

Guidelines for organising A Sub Chamber Showgirl and Rural ambassador Judging

The location and date of a Sub Chamber Judging is determined by each Sub Chamber. The Judging must be held at least 3 weeks prior to the Brisbane Ekka. This allows time for the Sub Chamber winner to prepare for the State Finals in Brisbane. It also allows sufficient time for the State Showgirl Committee to prepare the necessary administration and publicity involved for the State Final. Each Sub Chamber is requested to advise the State Showgirl Committee the name and contact details of the Sub Chamber Coordinator prior to their Judging.

It is never too early to start organising an event. A Sub Chamber Final isn't difficult to run. You just need to be organised.

When hosting a Sub Chamber final, it is likely the host show will be hosting both the Showgirl and the Rural Ambassador Competition. These competitions can be run in conjunction with each other. The main thing to remember is that they are different competitions and have different entry requirements, entry forms and are looking for a different winner. It is very plausible for an individual show society to have both a Showgirl and a Rural Ambassador.

In most cases, depending on how many finalists in each competition the host Show Society of the Sub Chamber Finals has, it is more ideal to have a separate set of judges for both the Showgirl and Rural Ambassador competitions. All information below is relevant for both the Showgirl and Rural Ambassador competition at a Sub Chamber level.

Budget

Sub-Chamber Finals do cost money to host however a Show Society can cover all their costs and in some instances even come out with a profit. It is very important to draw-up a budget right from the start. Look closely at all your costs and leave nothing out. When you have finished add a 10% contingency – there will always be something that occurs that you weren't expecting. Examples of a few costs that may or may not be applicable to your budget include:

- Venue hire
- Accommodation for judges
- Transportation
- Entertainment/background music
- Telephone and facsimile
- Postage
- Gifts – Showgirls, Rural Ambassadors and Judges
- Catering
- Wait staff
- Hire of equipment – e.g. audio equipment (microphone etc), tables & chairs, decorations, display panels, stage etc.
- Meals for judges and invited guests

- Meals for Showgirl and Rural Ambassador Entrants including judging lunch and presentation Dinner
- Accommodation/meals for the reigning Sub Chamber Finalist
- Printing and photocopying
- Cleaning

Please note that the above are suggestions only of some of the expenses that may be incurred and that there may be other costs that are applicable to your particular circumstances.

Sponsors

Start speaking with potential local sponsors early. The hotel/motel where the majority of your guests will be booked into is always a good place to start – some are more than willing to give you an extremely good price if it means guaranteed occupancy. Other suggested sponsors may include the local Council, businesses that will benefit from the event such as hairdressers, florists and the venue where the presentation is to be held, local businesses etc. You can never have too many sponsors. They are very important to the event's success so you need to look after them and give them as much media coverage and publicity as possible all the way leading up to and during your Sub-Chamber Final.

Venue

Book the venue for the presentation evening months in advance. You should place a tentative booking with the venue as soon as you have been advised of your Show Society's success as a Sub-Chamber Judging host.

Accommodation

Book accommodation at a suitable motel/s for Showgirls and Rural Ambassadors judges etc. The cut-off date for confirmation of bookings should be advised to the entrants and their Show Societies. Try to have a few choices so there is a difference in price range. As with the venue, you may be able to get a very good rate because of the quantity of rooms you book. This is especially true if there are a number of accommodation facilities in the area that all compete for business. Also ask if they have a suitable room in which to conduct interviews and to hold a judging lunch; however, this can be conducted elsewhere if desired. It may also be advisable to have a list of other local accommodation that can be sent to Show Societies if required, however in many small communities accommodation and venues are limited.

Compere

Organise a MC/Compere for the evening. This may be someone you already know or you may like to invite a media personality from a local radio station etc. It is essential they have a good understanding of the history, aims and the guidelines of both the Showgirl Competition and the Rural Ambassador.

Send a copy of the evening program to the Compere and also a copy of the entrant's information details if he/she will be introducing the entrants. This will give them time to formulate appropriate questions for each of the entrants that pertain to their background. Please note that an on-stage

interview is required at all Sub-Chamber Finals as it forms part of the judging process. It is desirable that the Compere speak to each contestant before the evening function to discuss the night's procedure and type of questions to be asked. This will help relax the contestants prior to this onstage interview. Also make sure that the Compere has a list of both your Sub-Chamber Final sponsors.

Entertainment

It is totally up to the Sub-Chamber Host as to whether to provide entertainment for the Presentation evening or not. Most Finals do however employ either a DJ or instrumentalist to provide music for dancing and to set a fun mood.

Printing

Start thinking about your printing requirements, you may need to consider invitation cards, dinner entrée cards, a presentation program and even table place cards and menu depending on how detailed you want to be. If you have access to a photocopier, a lot of the above can be done by yourself. If not, you may like to start looking at prices. Perhaps encourage a printer to be one of your sponsors. Please note that the Competition is to be referred to as **The Queensland Country Life Miss Showgirl Awards** and **Marsh Rural Ambassador Awards**.

Judging Lunch & Interview Location

If you haven't already organised a suitable interview location and judging lunch venue then now is the time to do it. As mentioned above, the motel where the Showgirls and Rural Ambassadors are staying will often have suitable facilities. If not, an alternative location needs to be booked. Ensure that there is an area outside the interview room where the entrants can congregate whilst waiting their turn. Some Sub-Chambers conduct their Showgirl and Rural Ambassador Judging in conjunction with their Sub-Chamber Meeting and therefore lunch can be held all together.

Judges

The Sub-Chamber Showgirl and Rural Ambassador Coordinator organises the panel of judges – preferably at least one male who reside outside the Sub-Chamber if possible, for each competition.

The Sub-Chamber or the Show Society Host pays for the accommodation for the judges and also for their meal at the Presentation Dinner.

Entrants

The Sub-Chamber Secretary will need to contact all Show Societies to ask if they have a Showgirl/Rural Ambassador and if so they will need to send to the Sub-Chamber the copy of the Nomination Form and Profile Form A. These will have to be given to the Sub-Chamber Showgirl/Rural Ambassador Coordinator so that she can copy one for each of the Judges and also the MC. The Showgirls, Rural Ambassadors and Show Societies will need to be advised of accommodation details and also provide a copy of the judging timetable and the day's proceedings

including where to meet etc. It is sometimes useful to also provide a map of your town that highlights the places that they will need to find.

Program

Once you have received all the necessary documentation from the entrants you can go ahead and have a program printed. Sometimes however this is not possible until very close to the Sub-Chamber Finals as some Show Societies still won't have judged their Showgirls and Rural Ambassadors. In this case have everything ready to go as soon as you receive the last entry.

Judges Information

A timetable needs to be sent to each of the Judges for the day's proceedings. The timetable should include the interview time for each entrant, the judging lunch and the time for the evening presentation. A copy of each entrant's resume and judging guidelines also needs to be sent out in plenty of time so as to give the judges time to study the information. As none of the above can be carried out until you have all the necessary documentation from the entrants it is suggested that you don't leave it too late to start chasing up Show Society Coordinators for the relevant forms.

Timetable

When planning the judging timetable look at the number of entrants you have. The more entrants on the day the earlier you will need to start. Allow 15 minutes for the judging interview and 5 minutes for the discussion on each of the entrants. Also try to schedule the entrants so that the closer the entrant lives to your town then the earlier their interview is. This will allow those who need to travel a greater distance the whole morning to get there.

Reigning Sub Chamber Winner Responsibilities

The reigning Sub-Chamber winner should be invited to attend the Sub-Chamber final. You may also like to invite the reigning Showgirl to sash the new State Showgirl Finalist and likewise to invite the reigning Rural Ambassador to announce the new Rural Ambassador State Finalist.

A letter should be sent to the reigning sub-chamber Showgirl and Rural Ambassador representatives well in advance to request their company. It is also a great opportunity to get them involved with the Sub-Chamber Final by having them act as a hostess during the interview process and quite often they will be able to give a lot of good advice to the entrants and settle their nerves down a bit. Please note that their meal at the Presentation Dinner should be paid for by the Sub-Chamber or Host Show Society.

Sashes

The sashes for the Showgirl Sub-Chamber winner and runner up should be provided by the Sub-Chamber. The Winner will not need this sash at State Final as she will be issued with a State Finalist sash in Brisbane. Please do not order a tri-coloured sash for your Sub-Chamber final event, as this is reserved for the State Final winner. A simple navy-blue sash with gold writing would be ideal for this event.

Badges/Rosettes

It is not standard practice for the Rural Ambassador winner and runner up to receive a sash, either a Badge or Rosette is recommended. The winner will not need either a badge or rosette at State Final as they will be issued with a State Finalists badge in Brisbane.

Invitations & Dinner Passes

Send out invitations for the Presentation Dinner well in advance, approximately 6 weeks. Invited guests who should receive complimentary dinner passes include:

- Showgirl Entrants
- Rural Ambassador Entrants
- Judges and Partners
- Reigning Sub Chamber winners
- Compere (if a special guest)

Catering

Confirm catering requirements with the venue/caterers. Ask when they will require final catering numbers (this is usually at least three working days prior to the event) and at this time also give them a copy of the evening's program and go through the event with them. You will also need to advise them if you will want the wait staff to stop serving and clearing plates during speeches or maybe just to provide drink service during this time. You may also have arranged for table centers, which you will need to advise the caterer of. Note that some venues/caterers will require a substantial deposit well before the event. In regard to the judging lunch, a suitable menu needs to be decided on that will give the judges the opportunity to judge deportment and manners.

Entertainment

If you are having entertainment on the evening, confirm all details with them. This includes:

- A copy of the program for the evening
- Any special music you would like them to play
- Stage area and power supply
- What time they can have access for setting up
- If pre-dinner music is to be playing on guest arrival and if so what sort
- Meal arrangements

Accommodation

Confirm all accommodation requirements with the motel/s and advise of names of guests. Also ensure that all Sub Chamber Finalists and their Show Societies are informed of accommodation details so that they can organise their bookings.

Gifts

Arrange gifts to be presented on the night. This may include flowers for the Showgirl entrants for example. Rural Ambassadors need to be a gift or token of appreciation suitable for both male and female entrants. A small token of appreciation is required for the judges. Arrange for a person to present the gifts to each recipient at the time of the announcement of winners in both competitions.

Decorations

The decoration of the venue is up to each individual Sub-Chamber and also dependent on your budget. Your sponsors may be able to help you with this and they may also have a banner that they would like you to display on the night.

Judging Day

- Ensure that the interview room is set up. Provide tea/coffee, water, paper and pens etc.
- Have a copy of the judging criteria available. Judging Guidelines are available on the Queensland Shows website and are also attached to this document.
- Name tags for the Showgirls makes the Judges' job a lot easier especially in larger Sub Chambers.
- Start on time and try to keep to the schedule during the course of the day. Even though written in the Judges' Guidelines, remind the judges that they must give each entrant the same amount of time for interviews – shortcuts are not to be taken.
- Each entrant should be taken into the interview room and introduced to each of the judges. As mentioned above, the outgoing Showgirl/Rural Ambassador would be ideal for this.
- No other person is to be in the room during interviews – this includes photographers and the recording of videos.
- Provide an envelope for the chief judge into which the winner/s name is to be placed.

Sub-Chamber Final Evening Presentation

- It is up to the individual Sub Chamber as to whether pre-dinner drinks will be served however this is the perfect opportunity for the Showgirl/Rural Ambassador entrants to mingle with guests. Please note that at no time during the evening are entrants to be asked

to serve either food or beverages to guests.

- Ensure that the judges are in good view of the stage area from their table as they will be judging the entrants on a variety of aspects whilst they are standing at the microphone.
- Have a jug of water and 2 glasses available near the microphone for use by the Compere.
- Try not to have the announcement of the Finalist too late in the evening as some guests will have a long way to travel home and may want to leave directly following the presentation.
- Organise with either the Chief Judge or another person to take the winning envelope up to the stage. The announcement of the winner is usually made by the Sub Chamber President
- Make mention of the sponsors during the evening – this should be included in the Compere's notes.

Post Sub-Chamber Final

- The name and contact details of the Sub-Chamber winner is to be sent to the State Showgirl Committee and Rural Ambassador Committee **immediately** following the Final. If you are unable to email then please phone through on the Monday following the presentation.
- Please ensure that the Sub-Chamber winner is aware that they will need to supply a **digital portrait photograph 1MB minimum** *emailed to the State Showgirl Committee and Rural Ambassador Committee immediately*. The State Committees of both the Showgirl and Rural Ambassador Competition will be in close contact with the newly announced State Finalists to provide all information and requirements prior to the State Final. It is recommended where possible and where there is a photographer available on at the announcement to plan a photograph to be taken for this purpose. This may include high resolution images taken by the local paper.
- **Each Sub-Chamber and host Show Society is responsible for securing appropriate prizes for the Sub-Chamber winners. It is also the responsibility of the Sub-Chamber to meet the cost of return travel for their Sub-Chamber winner to attend the State Final in Brisbane.**

2019 Winners and State Finalists of the Miss Showgirl Awards

Should your show wish to invite the 2019 Queensland Country Life Showgirl, runner up or Miss Popular to your show, please refer to specific contact details below.

2019 Queensland Country Life Miss Showgirl Winner

Clare Webb
Burnett Sub Chamber
0438 809 355
webbclare@gmail.com

2019 Queensland Country Life Miss Showgirl Runner Up

Brooke Currie
South West Queensland
0435 821 140
brookecurrie1@hotmail.com
2019 Queensland Country Life Miss Popular

Lyndal Tuttle
Central Highlands
0458 351 029
lyndal.tutt@gmail.com

We encourage all Shows to invite their local Sub-Chamber Winner to attend their Show.

2019 State Finalists Contacts

Burnett	Central Highlands
Clare Webb 0438 809 355 webbclare@gmail.com	Lyndal Tuttle 0458 351 029 Lyndal.tutt@gmail.com
Central Queensland	Central & North West Queensland
Ashleigh Hedges 0429 229 812 Ashleigh.hedges@outlook.com	Savannah McDonald 0473 431 311 sj2000@live.com.au
Darling Downs	Near North Coast
Kahlia Williamson 0456 863 511 KahliaWilliamson54@gmail.com	Hannah Goode 0439 509 573 Hannah.goode@uqconnect.edu.au
North Queensland	South Burnett
Georgia Hunter 0477 551 671 Georgiahunter173@gmail.com	Teagan Hall 0409 487 246 teagymhall@gmail.com
South East Queensland	South West Queensland
India Priestley 0455 552 279 indiapriestley@gmail.com	Brooke Currie 0439 821 140 brookecurrie1@hotmail.com

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