

A&I PLANS A FREE-FOR-ALL



Photos: PAC

by David Fawknor

Apart from free admission, one of the first things patrons will notice at this year’s Nimbin Country Show, to be held on September 21 and 22, will be the new show-ring fence. Constructed by Mat Rippon of Mallanganee, the three-rail, galvanised-steel fence complies with current OH&S requirements and is expected to have a working life of many years. It replaces a wooden fence dating from the 1990s that had become unsafe.

This year’s show is the 100th to be held on the Cecil Street site purchased from the Stewart family in 1920. However, there is some debate – even among committee members – as to whether this is the 100th show.

While the Nimbin A&I Society was founded in 1919, making this the society’s centennial year, it is unclear if an agricultural

event held on Gall’s Flat, on the left going out of town towards Gungah Road, in the same year was an official show.

Despite the confusion, the committee has decided to celebrate both events by declaring free gate admission at this year’s show.

Patrons can expect all the fun and excitement of a traditional country show, with cattle, horse, and poultry judging, equestrian events, pavilion displays, sideshows, plus a Saturday dog show. But because it’s Nimbin, there’ll also be the best of arts and crafts, a speakers’ tent, and permaculture and renewables displays in Sustainability Alley.

The committee has engaged the organisers



of the Nimbin Bowling Club’s regular open mic nights to provide live entertainment in the marquee on both days. There will also be poetry and a junior talent quest, the Goolmangar School steel band, and a local Bundjalung street performer. The committee also plans to set up several busking points within the showgrounds for local performers.

Patrons and exhibitors will also notice a number of other improvements to the showgrounds. Ben and Marty from Ben’s Painting have been busy repainting the partially restored southern side of the main pavilion, as well as the cages in the poultry pavilion. Additional work has been carried

out on the cattle judging area fronting Cecil Street, and Janice Rose has done a terrific job of repainting the horse jump rails, ensuring plenty of colour in the equestrian events.

Nimbin A& I President, Phil Williams, said this year’s anniversaries were a great opportunity for a community get together.

“We’ve taken out television advertising in the hope of drawing former residents and others to Nimbin for the weekend,” Phil said.

“We also expect to see several former showgirls present on the day, and I’d encourage people to have a bit of fun by dressing up in period costume.

“With free admission there’s really no reason not to come along and renew old friendships and make some new ones.”

More information, along with downloadable programs and entry forms, is available from the society’s website at: nimbinshowociety.org.au

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