

Memories of the Chapman Valley Show

I attended the first show working as a steward in the knitting and crochet section. The knitting section was mainly baby clothes, children's jumpers and cardigans. The adults' section were again jumpers, cardigans and the much-loved knitted socks.

I can remember my boyfriend Kevin Bunter coming and asking me to ride in the pair of hacks. I told him I didn't have any riding clothes as you can imagine back in those days girls and ladies very seldom wore pants out. Don't worry I was told Kevin took me down to his sisters and I borrowed a pair of his brother in laws long pants and a pair of his boots to ride in. Getting back to the show I said my pants were too big around the waist, in true farm style my uncle, Spencer Murphy got a piece of binder twine and I used that as a belt. So, with my hair in rollers, borrowed pants tied up with binder twine I rode in the pair of hacks with Kevin and won. My grandmother was horrified that I was riding this horse as it was an ex-racehorse, and we know what they can be like as she was frightened that I would get hurt. I did make her very proud though when we won. Can you imagine the riders dressing like that these days?

The Show Ball was always a highlight. I can always remember the beautiful gowns the ladies wore. Back then we would be booked for our dances by the different men that was at the ball. Organising the show was a big task with no phones or electricity. The lighting for the ball was by a lighting plant out the back of the hall. At times the plant would decide to stop and then there was panic to see what the problem was, most times it had run out of fuel and then everyone hoped that there was another container of petrol to get it cranked up again.

So, dedicated to the show when Kevin and I married in September 1952 we had to be back from our honeymoon for the show.

Over the years I have exhibited in knitting, crochet, sewing, craft, flowers and potted plant sections which I have enjoyed. I have been a steward on the sewing, embroidery and potted plant sections at the show. In later years I loved to exhibit my gerberas something that I was proud of.

I can remember when "Red Hill" the Murphy family farm used to exhibit their prize Merino sheep and wool for many years.

I always made a new dress for each of my daughters Coralie and Janniell for the show. As they got to the age when they could exhibit, it gave Kevin and I great pleasure in watching them achieve and get so excited for their win. Many a laugh was had at home watching the girls get their entries ready. One day I came in and here is Janniell making her patty cakes and she had the old hand beater clogged up and I asked what are you

doing? Mixing in the flour Mum was her reply. Needless to say, Janniel won first prize we don't know how they turned out so light – but they did.

As finances became available the committee saw fit to gradually do things to the Exhibition Hall with shelving and wire cage doors on the sections. Then came the time to concrete the floor and oh what a difference that has made.

It was a very proud day for me when I received a letter from the Committee to officially open the 60th Chapman Valley Show – This honour I will never forget.

Up until the 60th Show I had only missed one show due to being in Perth for medical reasons. I have however, missed a couple since then as I now pick my days that I attend due to age and health.

The show is getting bigger every time I attend, and it gives me a lot of joy when I hear from people that have made the trip to Nanson to attend.

Alma Bunter (nee Murphy)

