

## Memories of the Chapman Valley Show

Starting from the first Exhibition 1949.

Assisted my mother on the cooking section. I think the other sections were art and crafts, vegetables, fruit and maybe flowers.

After the conclusion of the day's events, which included best decorated bicycle and dolls pram for the children, it was all go to get the hall cleaned up and ready for the Show Ball. The wooden seating was replaced, floor cleaned and polished ready for dancing. This was done by grating candle wax over the floor. As young ones we sat on the chaff bags which were pulled all over the floor to work the wax in. No time to go home and have a bath and dress up, instead there was a small storeroom at the end of the supper room. So, with a dish of warm water we obtained from the copper we washed and dressed ready for the night at the Ball. The copper was used to boil water for the tea at supper time.

There was always a big crowd at the show ball. We had to have sittings for supper, but never short of food. It was food anyone would like to eat any time DELICIOUS.

One year it rained, we had to dry out the seating for the show ball. So, with paper and matches we went to work to dry the seats. Then with pieces of cleaning rags we rubbed over every seat so the ladies wouldn't get marks on their beautiful ball gowns.

When it became an Agricultural show in 1952 or 1953 (not too sure about the dates and too long ago to remember) the sections grew every year to what it is now.

Mr. P.A. McDonnell our secretary was needing some assistance, so I became his assistant secretary. My job was

- to obtain all judges and trophies for all sections in the pavilion.
- Prepare the recording books for all sections.
- Handwriting all first and second prize cards for all sections.
- Recording the overall winners in all sections – these records were kept for many years.
- Prepare notebooks ready for each section to accept entries.

There were many late nights to have them ready.

When Mr McDonnell retired from secretary I continued on as assistant secretary for Mr. H.A Gray 1964-1970 and Mrs. Kate Jupp doing the same jobs.

Unfortunately, I was unable to continue due to the ill health of my mother and we moved to Geraldton in 1973.

The week before Show Day was clean up and getting the pavilion ready. Also, as there were no cans or stubbies of beer in the early years it was kegs and glasses. The glasses and jugs need to be washed on Sunday to be put away.

I was a steward on the cooking, fancywork, needlework, and flowers. I helped my father on his precious vegetable section after my mum passed away. It got a little too much for dad and he retired.

I was a regular exhibitor in the fancywork and needlework section for many years mainly in crochet work and embroidery. After a spell, my husband Paddy Kennedy got interested in entering the flower section mainly roses which he loved, so I started back again with crochet work. Once again ill health raised its ugly head and I was unable to get my entries out, but my niece Coralie Simpson picked up my work and entered it for me. I gave it up when everything went online as I haven't got a computer and it was too much to go out on Friday as well as Saturday. So, it was farewell to the show as an exhibitor.

I sincerely wish the committee all the best for future shows.

Colleen Kennedy