

Memories of the Chapman Valley Show

From early 1980's our first exhibits at the Chapman Valley Agricultural Show were Saanen milking goats using the stalls in the sheep pen area.

It was very popular and we used quite a few bays with many exhibitors.

There were several classes with judges coming from Perth.

We were very successful and still have the trophy for Senior Champion Doe donated by ER Griffiths in 1982

We placed exhibits in the potted plants for many years from 2013 and usually won best in this section. We still provide a trophy each year.

Des was President for a year in 2012 and my brother, Warrick Butterworth was president the following year. Des and I were both on the Chapman Valley Agricultural Society committee and during this time were responsible for marking out bay bookings.

When we first took over bay bookings there were 70 bays booked and within a few years there were well over 110 bays booked.

We used our knowledge from caravan park management and ably assisted by Peter Elliott-Lockhart to mark out 2 different sizes for all the bays booked prior to show day.

On show day we had two way radio's to communicate between office and ground staff to more easily guide stallholders to their designated sites.

We were on the executive committee for more than 6 years.

In the Photography Section it was agreed for ease and better participation to collect the Photos at central points in Geraldton then judge them at the Waggrakine Hall.

We placed all the photos on the tables in their classes to save time for the photographer from the Guardian to do the judging. We then packed them up ready to hang in the Exhibition Hall on the Thursday before the show. There were over 500 photos to judge.

For two years Alicia Pawelski and I organised to pick up the photos this way.

One vivid memory was I tried to make the old dining room more glamorous and appealing to display craft items and to try and cover up the old wood trusses.

I received a lovely donation from Spotlight of some glittery tulle material.

I decided to purchase the whole roll to make drapes to hang from each beam which worked really well.

The most significant changes were the introduction of wristbands which quite a few members were very vocal about proceeding with this form of counting people through the gate. The improved parking up past the Golf club enabled patrons to get to see more of the show. Changing the side show alley location to the southern end, building two new undercover areas, and placing the container for the horse judges' box on site.

Our family continued to assist with Ian and Felicity running the Bush Baa for many years.

Margaret & Des Pike edited 26th May 2024