

W  
KANGAROO  
VALLEY

SHOW

2025



*The Official Guide*

**IT'S OUR 138TH YEAR!**

**14 & 15 FEBRUARY 2025**



# Kangaroo Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Association Inc.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Website**

www.kangaroovalleyshow.org.au

**SHOW OFFICE INFORMATION**

**Opening hours**

Wed 12 Feb 1-7pm, Thurs 13 Feb 8am-8pm,  
Fri 14 Feb 7am-8pm, Sat 15 Feb 9am-6pm

**Phone** (during office hours)

0493 207 824

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### By-Laws

- The Annual Show is conducted under the Rules and By-Laws of the Kangaroo Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Association Inc. The Committee reserves the right to alter or delete the program as it sees fit.

### Accidents and Incidents

- Personal Public Liability Risk is the responsibility of ALL competitors. Where Waivers are required, they MUST be signed by Exhibitors and Competitors as a condition of entry.
- Any accident occurring during the show must be reported to the Secretary or President and verified immediately on the day.

- The Committee will not be responsible for any accident that may be caused by or through any exhibit; and it shall be a condition of entry such exhibitor shall hold the Society blameless and indemnify it against any legal proceedings arising from any such accident.
- Any complaints must be made in writing to the Secretary within seven (7) days of the last day of Show.

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# A warm welcome to the 2025 Kangaroo Valley Show



On behalf of the Kangaroo Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Society Committee and Members, it's my pleasure to welcome you back to what's lovingly known as 'the friendly show'. Each year, the Kangaroo Valley Show brings us together to celebrate rural life, community, and tradition, and 2025 promises to be no exception.

A huge thanks goes to our dedicated and hardworking Committee, whose efforts are ensuring the 2025 Show meets - and hopefully exceeds - your expectations. From beloved classics to fresh, exciting attractions, we aim to create a memorable event for everyone, young and young-at-heart.

Kids Day kicks off the festivities on Friday, celebrating the youthful energy and curiosity that make this show so special. Our special program for kids is packed with activities designed to immerse them in the wonder of the KV Show. The official opening will take place on Friday evening, followed by lively new events to get everyone moving, a relaxed viewing of entries from our Valley Short Film competition, and much more.



Saturday promises a full day of action, with a bustling schedule across the Arena and Paddock, culminating in the much-anticipated rodeo on Saturday night.

This year, we're introducing a vibrant printed program to highlight all the show's unique features. Our traditional Schedule will also be available online, accessible via our website (kangaroovalleyshow.org.au). This shift not only enhances our show's reach but is part of our commitment to sustainability and cost-effectiveness, helping us keep the Kangaroo Valley Show affordable and accessible for all.

I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, exhibitors, supporters and our numerous volunteers, whose generosity and enthusiasm make the show possible. Most importantly, thank you to our community - it's your energy,

participation, and support that give us a reason to put on this fantastic event year after year. The Show has always been and will continue to be 'your show, our show, a country show'.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the 2025 Kangaroo Valley Show for a truly fun-filled, participatory experience on our beautiful Showgrounds.

**Stephen Wilson**  
Kangaroo Valley Show President



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## Schedule Overview & Ticketing

### COMPETITION ENTRIES

From Horses to Hay stacking, woodchop to wood work, baking to beef cattle, photography to floristry - there is something for everyone to get involved in. Our competitions are more of a showcase of talents and interests than hard core rivalry and each participant celebrates the others entry and often learns from them. Outside of the main arena, entry into competitions is generally free (check the individual sections on the website [www.kangaroovalley.org.au/competitions](http://www.kangaroovalley.org.au/competitions)) and everyone and anyone is welcome to join in, locals and visitors alike. Our show, your show.

For 2025, our competition information and entries go online. It's as simple as applying your lockdown skills by scanning the QR code below that will take you to the online Portal or follow the links from our website.

You will need to create a login if you dont have one and then navigate to section(s) you want to enter. There's a how-to video that you can look at on the website however, if you would prefer to enter with a pen and paper form, head to the post office.



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO ENTER ONLINE NOW!**

[showday.online/show/kangaroovalley](http://showday.online/show/kangaroovalley)

### WEEKEND PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY 8.30am - 11.00pm	SATURDAY 8.30am - 11.00pm
Kid's Day	Poultry Judging
Cattle Judging	Horses
Unusual Poultry	Kids Petting Zoo
Horses - Show Jumping	Camel Rides
Live Cheese Judging	Dog Show & Sheepdog Trials
Opening Ceremony	Canoe Racing
Cheese & Wine Tasting**	Wood chopping
Valentine's Dance	Grand Parade
Valley Shorts Short Film Festival	Pool entry & games
	Rodeo

### TICKETING

Membership	All weekend multiple entry	Adult \$25 Concession \$15 Child \$10
Friday	Friday 8.30am - 11pm	Adult \$15 Concession \$12.50 Child \$10
Saturday	Saturday 8.30am - 11pm	Adult \$20 Concession \$10 Child \$10

**NOTE: All exhibitors and competition entrants will require a ticket for admission to the show.**

\*\*Show entry is included in the ticketed event price.

## Kids Rule: A Special Day at the Show

**Kids Day at Kangaroo Valley Show is a cherished local tradition where school's out and the showground becomes a classroom without walls and a playground filled with adventure. This year introduces an exciting new guided program helping young visitors discover the Show's magic from dawn to dusk.**

The morning starts with hands-on farm experiences - learning about dairy with cow milking and butter making, followed by engaging poultry demonstrations. Young bakers then roll up their sleeves in the baking workshop, creating treats to share at lunch, while budding poets prepare for their performances.

Throughout the day, children can explore the arena's thrilling horse shows, watch cattle judging, and marvel at local art and photography displays. A special "All About Bees" presentation adds to the day's discoveries, while Side Show Alley offers classic carnival fun. Frisbee golf and giant games provide active entertainment between events.

New for 2025, 'Dogs in the Park' in the paddock brings extra excitement with agility displays, breed meet-and-greets, and fun dog activities. The afternoon continues to buzz with My Little Pony rides, the Junior Talent Muster, and bicycle races. Children and their four-legged friends can join the Dog Show, compete for 'Fastest Dog' honors, and show off their pets. Traditional novelties like the Three-Legged Race, Thong Toss, Egg Toss, and Shoe Scramble bring laughs and friendly competition,

while the Fancy Dress parade showcases creative costumes.

Each young visitor receives their own Show passport with map and discovery trail, a member's badge, and a special canvas show bag - creating memories that last well beyond the closing Bush Dance.



### KIDS DAY SCHEDULE\*

8:30am	Registration opens
9am-12pm	Decorate A Kangaroo
9:00am	Cow milking & butter making
9:40am	Poultry talk & demo
10:15am	Baking workshop
11:00am	Poetry Event
11:30am	Dogs in the Paddock
12pm	Lunch - BYO and taste what we've made
12:30pm	Pavilion Preview
1:00pm	All About Bees talk and demo
1:30pm	My Little Pony Rides & Horse Show jumping talk
2:00pm	Junior Talent Muster
2:30pm	Bicycle Races
3:00pm	Kids and Pets events, Fancy Dress, Novelty Events
5:15pm	Official Opening - School Song and Prize Giving.
6pm-7pm	Kids Dance

\*Schedule subject to change

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## Kangaroo Valley Show Jumps into New Era

The Kangaroo Valley Show is entering an exciting chapter of renewal, guided by three dedicated horse stewards - Lorraine Mairinger OAM, Sharon Morris, and Deb Banks. Their combined expertise is revitalizing one of the region's most historic agricultural events.

"To truly be an agricultural show, you must have horses," reflects Lorraine, whose involvement spans over five decades since 1972. After navigating bushfires, COVID-19, and floods, the show's organizers recognized the need for strategic changes to attract competitors despite the Valley's challenging mountain access.

The response includes increased prize money for show jumping events and the groundbreaking introduction of Thoroughbred Sport Horse Association (TSHA) classes. "These young, healthy



beloved traditional events including Child and Adult Riding classes, Pony and Hack classes, Mini's, Shetlands, Heavy Horse, and Show Hunter competitions. Children's fun events kick off the program on Friday afternoon.

With its combination of accessible entry points, serious competition, and pioneering support for thoroughbred rehabilitation, the revitalized Kangaroo Valley Show is positioning itself as a must-attend equestrian event that successfully embraces change while honoring tradition.

athletic thoroughbreds have so much potential for a second career," explains Deb. The TSHA classes, sponsored by racing stables and breeding operations, offer valuable prizes to encourage the retraining of former racehorses.

Innovation extends to more accessible competition levels, with open classes starting from 45-60cm, lower than the typical 80-90cm entry point at other shows. This approach welcomes developing riders and horses while maintaining high standards through renowned course designer Kel Priestley's involvement.

"We're building on our heritage while creating new opportunities," says Sharon, highlighting the show's balance of tradition and progress. Alongside new initiatives, the show maintains its



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## Broncs Join Bulls in Valley's Biggest-Ever Rodeo

The Kangaroo Valley Show Rodeo is set to buck into action with a significantly expanded program for 2025, introducing events not seen previously on the Show Rodeo Events in the Shoalhaven & Southern Highlands area along with new prestigious awards that promise to make this year's event a landmark occasion.

In an exciting development, the program now includes Saddleback and Bareback Bronc riding, events that have long thrilled Queensland crowds but have been less common in NSW show Rodeo's. This expansion, alongside the established Shoalhaven Open Bull Championship, positions Kangaroo Valley at the forefront of rodeo's evolution in the state.

"Kangaroo Valley has always been a favourite for Rodeo riders of all ages," says Helen Mairinger, Chief Steward of the KV Show Rodeo and Secretary of the Nowra Rodeo Association. "There's something special about our country show atmosphere and the way spectators can see all the action, we have always been a show to support and encourage Junior riders, Adding these bronc riding events helps us build the sport and gives riders more opportunities to showcase their skills."

Riders in both categories must compete at all four Shoalhaven Shows - Berry, Nowra, Kangaroo Valley & Milton with The Championship events awarded at Milton Show Rodeo.

A highlight of the 2025 program is the introduction of the President's Choice award. This prestigious honour, including both a buckle and cash prize, will be awarded at the discretion of President Stephen Wilson to recognise outstanding



performance across either bull, steer and bronc riding categories.

The program also features a new Juvenile Champion Steer category open to riders aged 14-18, this category focuses on fostering young talent with a prestigious belt buckle.

Competitors are advised to register early through the ABCRA website, with entries strictly limited. Open Steer rides will accommodate approximately 16 spots, while other Steer Categories are capped at 12 participants. This structure ensures a high-quality competition while maintaining the event's traditional country show character.

Having grown up helping muster cattle in the early days of the Rodeo herself, Helen Mairinger brings a lifetime of local rodeo experience to her role. "Today's event combines professional organization with that authentic country atmosphere that makes Kangaroo Valley special," she reflects.

**THE RODEO IS ON:  
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Thank you to the Thoroughbred Sport Horse Association and Mystery Downs Breeding & Racing for bringing the 1948 issue to the Kangaroo Valley Show. The 1948 is integral to the welfare and the future of C.I.A. and it is great to have these classes showcasing the talent of Thoroughbreds. These classes are only possible due to the generous support from sponsors like France and Christine Cook under the banner of their Mystery Downs Breeding & Racing. France and Christine are true horse lovers - they are passionate about their Thoroughbred while racing but also ensure the welfare of their horses when they race.

The Trust is proud to work together with Mystery Downs to create a career beyond racing.



## The Heart of the Show: The Pavilion

At the heart of every country show lies its Pavilion - a treasure trove of local talent, dedication, and community pride. The Kangaroo Valley Show Pavilion stands as testament to this tradition, where the region's finest home-grown, home-made, and hand-crafted entries come together in a vibrant display of rural excellence.

This year marks a significant changing of the guard, as Intan Kallus takes over stewardship from long-serving Irene Dunn. "It's an absolute honour to carry forward this vital tradition," says Intan. "The Pavilion is where our community's creativity and skill truly shine."

From meticulously tended vegetable specimens to perfectly set jams, from intricate handicrafts to eye-catching photography, the Pavilion transforms into a showcase of the Valley's talents. Each carefully arranged display tells

a story of hours spent nurturing gardens, perfecting recipes, and honing artistic skills.

The competition categories reflect the rich tapestry of rural life. Bakers vie for coveted ribbons with their signature cakes and preserves, while green thumbs present their prized



flowers and vegetables. Local artists and craftspeople display works that capture the essence of Valley life, while photographers share their unique perspectives through the lens.

But beyond the ribbons and friendly rivalry, the Pavilion serves a deeper purpose. It's where knowledge passes between generations, where age-old techniques meet contemporary



creativity, and where the community comes together to celebrate collective achievement. Children learn from seasoned exhibitors, traditional skills find new expressions, and visitors discover the remarkable talents hidden within our community.

"What makes the Pavilion special is how it brings people together," Intan reflects. "Whether you're a first-time entrant or a seasoned exhibitor, everyone shares in the excitement of show day and the pride in our community's achievements."

As the Valley's residents prepare their entries for the 2025 show, the Pavilion stands ready to once again showcase the best of local produce, creativity, and craftsmanship - a proud tradition that continues to evolve while honoring its deep roots in our agricultural heritage.

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## A Legacy of Cattle Excellence

The story of cattle in Kangaroo Valley mirrors the evolution of Australian agriculture. From 66 dairy farms in earlier times to today's five highly productive operations, the Valley's cattle industry exemplifies how innovation and tradition can thrive together.

"The best of the cows that you see in the Kangaroo Valley paddocks will be there, so come and have a closer look," invites Trevor Parrish, Chief Steward of Dairy Cattle and fourth-generation dairy farmer. His pioneering work in genetic breeding demonstrates the innovative spirit keeping dairy traditions alive.



Brad Hawthorne, Chief Steward of Beef Cattle, continues the legacy of his mentor David Kent. "It's an honour to have been passed the baton," reflects Brad, who, despite his city origins, found his calling in country life.

The Show's cattle events celebrate both dairy heritage and beef excellence, welcoming all European and British breeds. "A particular highlight is the Junior and Intermediate Parader competitions, which foster the next generation of cattle handlers under and over 15 years of age," Brad explains. The early-season timing makes it a crucial stepping stone for competitors gathering points toward the Royal Show, attracting strong participation from coastal and highland schools.

The Open Steer competition consistently draws the day's largest field, while the ECM competition provides valuable judge-exhibitor interaction. The section also reflects modern farming evolution, balancing traditional methods with growing interest in regenerative practices.

One tradition remains unchanged: rain, hail, or shine, farmers and their cattle gather at sunrise for a free sausage sizzle before competition begins. It's more than just a show - it's a celebration of agricultural heritage and the families who continue to shape it.

### THE ART OF SHOWING CATTLE: A FARMER'S PERSPECTIVE By Graeme Cochrane

In the show ring, cattle are evaluated on their overall conformation, including udder quality, body structure, feet and legs, and general style. Judges assess each animal's history, inquiring about calvings and age, as well as time since last calving.

The relationship between parader and cow is crucial for success. These 650kg animals can be headstrong on a halter, each possessing a unique personality that requires careful handling. A strong, trusting bond developed over years is essential, as a cow's misbehavior during a show can lead to disappointing results.

Our commitment to maintaining show cows in peak condition is a year-round endeavor. The transformation process begins 10-12 weeks before a show, demanding dedicated attention to detail. While receiving a ribbon is gratifying, the real reward lies in witnessing these magnificent animals develop through careful preparation. This dedication to excellence, combined with patience and respect, forms the foundation of successful cattle showing.



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## A Heritage of Feathers

“The fascinating world of poultry breeding connects us to a tradition that spans millennia,” reflects Rob Folkard, Poultry Chief Steward, as he describes how modern breeds trace their ancestry to Roman times. This rich heritage continues at the Kangaroo Valley Show, where poultry exhibition remains a cornerstone.

“Our Poultry Section truly offers something for everyone,” Rob explains. “Whether you’re an experienced breeder or simply appreciate these magnificent birds, you’ll find something to capture your interest.”

The two-day program begins Friday with a special exhibition of rare and unusual breeds. Saturday’s main event showcases an impressive range of pure breeds, from diminutive Sebrights and Dutch Bantams to majestic Cochins and Brahmas. “The diversity we see in these birds is remarkable,” notes Rob. “Each breed tells its own story of careful selection and breeding.”

Qualified judges evaluate entries according to the Australian Poultry Standards across 135 classes, including fowls, waterfowl, turkeys, and geese. The competition also features six classes for backyard poultry and four egg classes in the John Walker Pavilion. Entry is free, with cards and prize money awarded to first and second place winners. Champions in each category compete for the prestigious “Champion and Reserve Champion Rare Breed” and “Champion and Reserve Bird of Show” titles.

Youth participation holds special importance. “Nurturing the next generation of poultry enthusiasts is crucial for preserving these breeds,” Rob emphasizes. Competitors under 13 can enter both open classes and exclusive junior categories, which include ten purebred and six backyard classes, all with dedicated prize money.

The Poultry Pavilion promises an educational experience for all visitors, with a special session for kids on Friday. “What I love most,” Rob shares, “is seeing people’s faces light up when they discover the incredible variety and beauty of these birds. Many visitors leave with a newfound appreciation for poultry breeding.”



## KV’s Dairy Excellence: From World Records to Artisan Awards

“We were amateur cheesemakers who shared the joy of cheese making,” recalls Kathy Harrington, speaking of herself and fellow enthusiasts Jan Watson and Rosie Johnson. When they discovered their local show lacked a dairy section, they approached the committee with the idea to start one, leading to the first cheese and dairy section in 2017.

The competition has flourished since, reaching 90 entries in 2024 and achieving a Guinness World Record in 2019 for the largest cheese tasting event. Categories now span from fresh butter and yoghurt to complex aged varieties like Parmesan and Stilton, showcasing the region’s diverse dairy craftsmanship.

“Today there is no other local cheese

section anywhere south between KV and Bega,” Kathy notes. “After 7 years, with covid setbacks aside, it is now a very popular section of the show with a healthy entry record. It’s wonderful to see local people trying their hand at making a variety of cheese and dairy products. The open judging also attracts a lot of public interest.”

This year’s judge, Graham Redhead, brings extensive expertise to the event. With a background in Food Technology and international experience in Italy, France, and the UK, Graham founded Cheesemaking.com.au and pioneered ‘Farmhouse Cheesemaking’ courses. His anonymous judging provides valuable feedback to help participants enhance their craft.



### CHEESE & WINE TASTING

#### Cheese and Wine Tasting: State vs State Showdown

Get ready for a culinary delight as our annual cheese and wine tasting returns, and this year it’s a State vs State showdown! Experience the best cheese and wine from six Australian states, expertly paired and presented by local cheesemaker Pam Swinfield and renowned wine connoisseur [Insert Name], with Brian Warner as the lively MC for the evening.

A highlight of the KV Show’s Friday night, this event is the perfect way to indulge and celebrate Valentine’s Day in style.

**When** Friday, February 14  
**Time** 6pm  
**Price** \$55

Scan the QR code to secure your tickets —don’t miss this unforgettable evening of flavor and fun!



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### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

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That's the invitation from Lisa Anthony, Events coordinator, and it's just the beginning of what awaits at the 2025 Show. Under the guidance of Lisa and Grounds Manager Paul Williams, the entertainment precinct spans from traditional sideshow alley to modern amusement zones, creating an unforgettable experience.

From carnival rides to creative workshops, from animal encounters to electric vehicle displays, devonshire teas to smoking BBQ's and novelty races in and out of the water, the Events team has curated an entertainment program that captures both the Show's cherished heritage and its bold future.

### CANOE RACING CONTINUES TO MAKE WAVES

Canoe racing debuted at the Kangaroo Valley Show in 2023, highlighting the region's reputation as the canoeing capital of New South Wales—and arguably Australia. With hundreds of kilometers of creeks flowing into the valley, it's a paddler's paradise, attracting adventurers from near and far.

Inspired by the Robertson Show's quirky potato-carrying competition, Travis Frenay of Paddle and Portage Canoes decided it was time to showcase the valley's strengths in a similar way.

With generous prize money—\$1,000 for winners in men's and women's divisions—the stakes were high. Yet, the event had an air of curiosity and excitement as many participants and spectators alike were unsure what to expect.

The inaugural races were a resounding success, blending competition with community spirit and celebrating the valley's unique landscape. Canoe racing is now a growing tradition at the show, offering great prize money and an exhilarating reminder of why Kangaroo Valley is the ultimate destination

for paddling enthusiasts. Pack your Swimmers and a Towel.

The local community pool becomes a vibrant hub of activity during the hot summer of the Kangaroo Valley Show Weekend. Beyond being a refreshing oasis for cooling off, this year's program features scheduled novelty pool races and games, adding excitement and drawing families and kids at specific times. With prizes and fun competitions on offer, the pool transforms into a lively gathering spot for locals and visitors alike. It's the perfect complement to the weekend's festivities, offering both relaxation and organized fun in the heart of the event.



## Inaugural 'Valley Shorts' Film Comp at Kangaroo Valley Show

The Kangaroo Valley Show 2025 is set to celebrate local creativity with the launch of the inaugural Valley Shorts Short Film Competition, a platform for aspiring filmmakers of all ages to share their stories. Designed especially for amateur filmmakers, but not precluding professionals past and present, this competition encourages participants to unleash their imagination using accessible tools—like smartphones and iPhones—to craft compelling short films between 30 seconds and 3 minutes long.

Valley Shorts is the creation of Julie Ward, founder of Your Life Stories and Executive Producer of entertainment television, who together with collaborator Gudula Dornseiffer aims to empower storytellers through accessible technology.



“With phones in hand, we are daily consumers and creators of short-form content,” says Julie. “Valley Shorts is about taking those everyday skills and turning them into something special. You don't need expensive equipment—just a great idea and the desire to give it a go.”

Open to filmmakers of all ages and abilities, Valley Shorts will acknowledge prizing for young filmmakers, juniors, and families, alongside awards for best lead

character and the most creative use of a required element: a visual image of a heart, which must be cleverly incorporated into each submission.

The competition has received enthusiastic support from Shark Island Kangaroo Valley, recent producers of the acclaimed documentary \*The Pool\*. During the past year, Shark Island was seen filming around Kangaroo Valley for their upcoming documentary, currently titled \*The Valley\*, which is currently in post production.

“The medium of film and the power of storytelling can change lives and minds, and the smallest stories can have universal meaning,” says Sarah Butler, Executive Director of Shark Island Kangaroo Valley. “We can't wait to see what the aspiring filmmakers of Kangaroo Valley produce.”

Joining Shark Island on the judging panel are Howard Sacre, former foreign editor for Nine Network's 60 Minutes\*, and Tony Williams of Four Donkey Films, whose award-winning commercial work includes a Cannes Film Festival Gold Lion.

“This competition is all about great stories,” says Howard. “A great short film, no matter how simple, should have a clear beginning, middle, and end. It's

a wonderful opportunity for budding filmmakers and content creators to showcase not just their ideas, but their ability to tell a complete story and include great talent.”

**With a prize pool of \$2500, everyone is encouraged to checkout the website for more inspiration: kangaroovalleyshow.org.au/valleyshorts. Screenings will be held on Friday 14th at 8pm and throughout the day on Saturday 15th.**



## Novelty and Fun Events at the Show

### NOVELTY AND FUN EVENTS AT THE SHOW

The Kangaroo Valley Show is packed with quirky and entertaining events that bring out the playful side of the community.

Classic novelty games bring plenty of laughs with the Three-Legged Race, Thong Toss, Egg Toss, and Shoe Scramble, while larger group events like the Tug o' War and the unique Ute Pulling Challenge ensure there's something for everyone to enjoy.



### A FEAST OF SHOW FLAVOURS

Savor the tastes of our diverse food offerings, from sizzling Smokers BBQ to classic show favorites like Dagwood Dogs and cool treats from the Ice Creamery. The crown jewel is Caterina's Tea Room, nestled in our air-conditioned hall, where tradition meets indulgence.



Here, Caterina honors the Country Women's Association legacy with elegant Devonshire tea served in fine china, alongside freshly made finger sandwiches, wraps, and homestyle treats crafted from local ingredients. As the day winds down, enjoy refreshments from our bar while music plays into the evening. Whether you crave casual fair food or wish to slow down with a proper tea service, there's something to delight every palate.



### WORKING DOGS & CANINE CELEBRATIONS

The KV Show proudly features two exciting dog events this year. Watch in awe as the renowned Working Dogs Down Under Sheepdog Trials returns, led by expert trainer Tony Mulvihill. This captivating display showcases the extraordinary partnership between handlers and their dogs as they masterfully guide sheep through challenging courses. With training centers in Cobbitty and Marulan, Tony's expertise spans from beginner to advanced handling techniques.

New for 2025, we're introducing Dogs



in the Park – a tail-wagging celebration in our paddock area. This interactive event features dog competitions, agility demonstrations, and educational talks on responsible pet ownership. Visit the dedicated marketplace for local pet products, meet different breeds, and join in family-friendly dog activities throughout the weekend. Don't miss these incredible displays of canine skill, intelligence, and companionship!

### MATILDA'S MAGICAL FARMYARD

Join us Saturday at our beloved animal nursery, where a cast of charming creatures awaits your visit. Meet Lucille the selfie-loving llama, Idol the friendly miniature donkey, playful ponies Nadia and Primrose, and our mischievous goat sisters. Cuddle with Bun Bun and Fluff the rabbits, say hello to Maddy the sheep and Buttercup the calf, and delight in our quirky poultry parade. With guided interactions throughout the day, Matilda's Farmyard offers unforgettable hands-on experiences for the whole family.

## Axe-citing Times: Why Wood chopping is Still a Show-Stopper

The sharp crack of axe meeting timber and flying sawdust remains one of the most quintessentially Australian spectacles at agricultural shows across NSW. Woodchopping, dubbed the "original extreme sport," has been captivating audiences since its formal inception in 1891, growing from its Tasmanian roots into an essential feature of every major agricultural show.

The sport showcases a remarkable blend of skill, strength, and precision through various compelling events.

Tree felling demonstrates heritage skills, with choppers mounting springboards to replicate traditional timber-getting techniques, combining height, balance, and raw power.

The competitors themselves represent a unique athletic tradition. Many come from families where axe skills have been passed down through generations, each adding their own techniques to time-honored methods.

What makes woodchopping particularly special in today's digital age is its authenticity. The sport connects spectators to Australia's heritage, showcasing the fundamental skills that helped build our communities. Each competition tells a story of hard work, precision, and the satisfying challenge of transforming raw timber.

The atmosphere at these events remains electric – from the distinctive ring of steel on timber to the encouraging shouts and triumphant cheers as blocks split apart. It's more than just competition; it's a living piece of Australian heritage that continues to draw new generations of competitors and spectators.



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# Join The Grand Parade

## GRAND PARADE HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday's Grand Parade promises to be a highlight, with the iconic Red Shed tractor leading the way. Community groups are invited to create vibrant banners and join fellow locals walking, riding, or rolling around the Oval. The Best-Dressed Ute Competition adds extra flair – deck out your work vehicle with flowers, farm gear, or let imagination run wild. All entries will win a pizza voucher thanks to Terra & Mare and the two best will take home \$150. Whether you're on foot, bike, or with your four-legged friends, join us in making the parade super Grand!



## BUSKING

The Kangaroo Valley Show expands to a two-day entertainment program. Friday spotlights young talent with the under-12 Junior Talent Muster, welcoming performances from singing to comedy. "We're creating opportunities for young performers to build confidence," says coordinator Zoe Smith. Saturday features the Busking Challenge, with performers competing for the Best Busker award. Entry details on Show website.

## VALENTINE'S DANCE NIGHT

Make it a special Valentine's Day at the KV Show, where DJ Tino spins crowd favorites all evening. The family-friendly hour from 6-7 PM lets young dancers show off their Nutbush, Macarena, and Agadoo moves. From 7:00 to 8:30 PM, adults can enjoy country-themed dancing near the bar area and food trucks. Bring picnic rugs and a candle for a romantic

touch, wear a splash of red, and celebrate Valentine's Day with true country spirit. Don't miss this perfect date night under the stars!

Get ready to swing, cast off, and do-si-do your way into a memorable evening. See you on the dance floor!



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# Capturing the Spirit of Kangaroo Valley: A Lens on Rural Life

The photography competition at the Kangaroo Valley Show has long been a window into the soul of our community, capturing extraordinary moments in our everyday lives. Since 2012, under the dedicated stewardship of Sue Williamson, and now joined by co-steward John Garrod, the competition has evolved into a vibrant celebration of local talent and rural Australian life.

In our unique valley setting, photographers find endless inspiration. From misty mornings over dairy pastures to the dramatic escarpments that frame our village. Wildlife photographers document our abundant native fauna - from wallabies grazing at dawn to the diverse bird life that calls the valley home.

In 2025, the competition has embraced new categories. The popular "pets" category captures the special bond between families and their animals, while

the innovative "wallpaper" category for phone and tablet backgrounds recognizes how digital devices have become an integral part of life

Understanding the importance of nurturing young talent, the junior division now features two age groups—10 and under, and 11 to 16—ensuring fair competition among our budding photographers.



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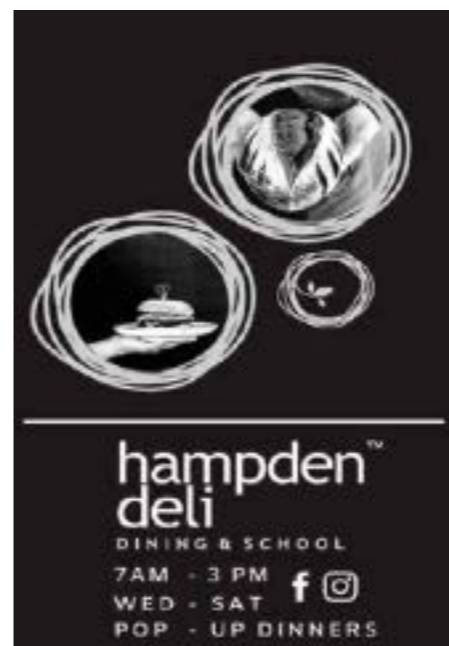
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