

# Showgirl reflects on a year of opportunity

The world according to Christie Menzies, last year's winner of the *Queensland Country Life* Miss Showgirl Competition...

**T**WELVE months as the QCL Miss Showgirl have come and gone, and thankfully, I have yet to see a single tiara. Contrary to the misconception, the Miss Showgirl Competition is not a beauty contest; there are no spray tans and world peace is generally not discussed (it's a nice idea though).

The girls are interested in, and have vast knowledge of, agricultural industries. Most importantly they are proud to be a part of the tradition of Queensland shows. We exemplify elegance and intelligence in agriculture.

Over the past 12 months I've had the opportunity to hold the title of Queensland Miss Showgirl. It would be impossible to have come to the end of this year without having a few monumental moments. Many of these experiences would not have been

possible if not for the competition.

It started at the Ekka 2010 with an exciting schedule including a tour of the *Queensland Country Life* offices and printing facilities, lunch at Parliament House and sashing cattle in the main ring.

Most people will never have those opportunities, especially not all in one week.

The most outstanding memory from the Ekka last year was having a personal tour through Government House by Her Excellency Penelope Wensley.

It's a long way from the stock yards at home to nibbling cucumber sandwiches with dignitaries.

Her Excellency offered an abundance of advice for young ladies wanting to make their mark on the world (advice well worth heading). After the glitz and glamour of



*Queensland Country Life's* 2010 Miss Showgirl Christie Menzies (centre), South West, at the Ekka last year with Miss Showgirl runner-up Alice Turnbull, Central Queensland, and Miss Popular, Andrea Schulz, Near North Coast.

the Ekka I returned to work as a pharmacist in Roma.

From there I still endeavour to remain heavily involved in the agricultural industry.

I spend my spare time at home in Taroom, where my family has beef cattle properties.

I enjoy horse riding and cattle work when I can. With plenty of water around now fishing is quite often back on the agenda. I have also been fulfilling a

number of show commitments throughout the year. This involved playing a more active role in my show committee and travelling to many other shows.

I have crossed paths with people, young and old, and shared ideas about show development as well as learning new ideas to take home.

Perhaps the most significant observation that I have made over the past year is that there are many young people in rural

## QCAS chambers judging contestants

THROUGHOUT Queensland, 11 sub-chambers of the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies have been conducting their regional judging to select the showgirl to represent their sub-chamber at the state final in Brisbane.

These 11 young Queensland women will then be preparing for an exciting few days at the Ekka, and the finalists are from many parts of the state.

The girls will be judged on a variety of topics including presentation, speech and manners, general knowledge of local, state, national and international affairs, personality and their ability to communicate with people.

Keep reading *Queensland Country Life* for the official announcement of the 2011 Queensland Showgirl, awarded on Friday, August 12 at the Ekka.

areas willing to get involved and many other people ready to hear their ideas.

All generations need to respect each other's contributions and embrace the idea of change to take rural communities into the future.

As for the future of the Miss Showgirl competition, this year a new element will be added. *The Land's* NSW Miss Showgirl, Hillary Scott, will be joining the showgirl entourage in Brisbane. So if you see us at the Ekka, feel free to stop and chat.

I am very much looking forward to the week getting to know the ladies. It's a much more relaxed view from the old girl's side of the fence. My advice for the upcoming showgirl entrants is to make the most of each moment.

There is no point in stressing out – remain calm and just enjoy the ride. **E**

*Every future has a start...mine was here!*



Tim Dobson  
Nudgee College Orléans  
1992-1996  
Solicitor

*Nudgee College offered me broad horizons and spirit.*

Boarding at Nudgee College provides a variety of pathways. Whether it be academic, cultural, personal, spiritual, sporting or vocational, Nudgee College will help your son find his path in the world.

- Boarding Years 6 – 12
- Day school Years 5 – 12
- Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition
- Extensive social justice program
- Choice of 33 OP subjects
- Gifted & Talented program
- Vocational Education Program
- Member of Queensland GPS
- World class academic & sporting facilities
- 136 ha suburban property
- Established in 1891

**OPEN DAY AUGUST 16**

FOR DETAILS AND TO RSVP  
VISIT [WWW.NUDGEE.COM](http://WWW.NUDGEE.COM)



ST JOSEPH'S  
**NUDGEE  
COLLEGE**  
MEMBER OF THE QCAA

St Joseph's Nudgee College 2199 Sandgate Rd Boondall, Queensland  
(07) 3865 0555 [www.nudgee.com](http://www.nudgee.com) [enrollments@nudgee.com](mailto:enrollments@nudgee.com)

## Contest opens doors for young women

THE Miss Showgirl competition has always been a staple within the country show circuit and culminates every year at the Royal Queensland Show, when the state winner is crowned.

The Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies annual Miss Showgirl awards were established in Queensland in the mid 1980s.

They aimed to provide an avenue for young women from regional and remote parts of Queensland to participate in an event that engendered community spirit, education and public awareness.

Queensland Show CEO Mark Bryant said that over the many years the competition had run there had been thousands of young women who had had their first opportunity to participate in an event that allowed them to meet with their peers from across the state, participating in public speaking engagements and community events.

"The awards target young single



Christie Menzies shows off her winning smile and cuddles up to some cute farmyard animals at the Ekka last year. With her is 2010 Miss Popular, Andrea Schulz and runner-up Alice Turnbull.

women who may not have had the opportunities afforded to other members of their communities and specifically highlights the talents and contribution these women make to their communities," he said.

The success of this competition is highlighted by the calibre and high number of entrants who compete for the title of Queensland Miss Showgirl each year. Many

past Showgirls have gone on to become successful in business ventures and have continued to contribute to communities throughout Queensland and Australia.

The Showgirl competition is considered to be extremely relevant to the advancement of young Queenslanders and to the enhancement of community spirit throughout the state.