

Participating in the Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman competition provides valuable experience and opportunities to represent rural NSW. The young woman programme provides a platform for young women to discuss community issues and advocate for rural NSW. The programme is highly beneficial to all participants as it plays a significant role in the overall development of rural youth within this country. The entrants gain great insights towards personal development and offers networking opportunities through AgShows NSW, Next Gen, RAS, Industry Careers, and NSW. The people you meet are genuine and happy to help you out at any stage that they can. You forge relationships with both men and women you wouldn't otherwise come across if it wasn't for the show movement. The competition extends beyond local, zone, and state levels, you choose as to when to take the sash off!

Growing up, the Young Women (previously known as "Showgirl"), were always the highlight of the show for me because they're so passionate about their local show and such great role models for the community. I always knew one day I wanted that to be me, and I am honoured to be the 2023 Young Woman for Moree. This opportunity has allowed me to not only give back to my community and be a proud ambassador for Moree, but the program has also given me the confidence to be able to walk up to anyone in the room and start a discussion with them, I think that's an important thing. It's a great program and I just can't speak highly enough about it, the skills you learn will stay with you for life. There's so much to gain, and it's so much more than just getting a sash: it's a great way to not only become more involved in your own show society but also in your community.

In approach to the Zone Final, I was fortunate to attend a professional development workshop conducted by Adi Ritchie of Polish Works, which was held at her beautiful property in Glen Innes. This weekend gave all Zone 4 candidates the opportunity to connect with each other before Zone, gave an insight into the competition and taught valuable skills in etiquette, conversation skills and public speaking. The workshop also consisted of hearing from Jessica Towns (The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW 2023 Runner Up) and Georgie Haire (2021 State Finalist), who also gave us some fantastic tips for Zone. I will be forever grateful and thank the Moree Show Society for this opportunity.

The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Zone 4 Final was held in Tamworth on the 10th of February 2024. The Tamworth Show Society did a terrific job at hosting the event, and I would like to give a credit to their hard-working committee. The day consisted of a panel interview, luncheon with the judges, and an onstage interview during the evening's dinner. It was wonderful to reconnect with the Zone 4 cohort young women from our region. Unfortunately, I was not selected to move onto the next level, however I strive to continue to meet and encourage other young women to not only follow their passions in their rural or regional communities, but to join the Young Woman program, to put their hand up, have a voice and make a difference in Rural NSW.

I would like to sincerely thank the Moree Show Society for their ongoing support. Thank you to Karen and Brendan Munn, Mr Mark Johnson, Jacque Towns, and my family for supporting me at the Zone Final. Thank you to my mentor, Jessica Towns. The support from you is a true spirit of the Young Woman programme. Thank you to James and Chantel McKibbin for the ongoing support of helping me immerse myself into the community, giving me the opportunity to step into the roles of Publicity Officer & Assistant Secretary within the Moree Show society. Thank you also to the Sponsors at the local and Zone level.

I will be forever grateful for my time as the 2023 Moree Young Woman, and I hope I've done the duty well. It has been really rewarding, and it's also a great feeling going out and boasting about your hometown because I think Moree is great. As my time comes to an end, I look forward to mentoring the 2024 Young Woman entrants, and I will continue to be an ambassador for Moree. The best advice I was given during my journey that I'll treasure forever is, "Just smile and have fun", and I thank Brendan Munn for that.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's 150th annual show!

Brooke Muller
2023 Moree Young Woman

