

2019 Maitland Showgirl Competition

What is the Showgirl Competition?

The Competition aims to find a young female Ambassador for rural and regional NSW and the agricultural show movement. The winner of the Maitland competition is selected by a panel of three judges and remains Showgirl until the next year's Show. The winner will go on to compete at the Zone level in 2020. The winner of the Zone competition then goes on to the Final at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney.

Is it a beauty pageant?

Definitely not, Showgirl is so much more than a superficial beauty contest. It is a chance to meet some new people, try some new things and have a lot of fun.

Entrants must have a genuine interest in, and knowledge of, rural and regional NSW. The Competition encourages the participation and awareness of issues faced by women in rural and regional NSW. Contestants are judged on rural knowledge, general knowledge, presentation and speech, personality, confidence, ambition and life goals. Finalists must also demonstrate knowledge of their local Show, our community and current affairs. In addition to their potential ambassadorial qualities, contestants are also judged on their involvement in and experience of rural and regional affairs.

Why should I enter?

Maitland and its surrounds are changing rapidly. Do you have a vision for the future of our community which you want to share? The Competition gives you a unique platform to act as an ambassador for our community. The Competition plays a significant role in the overall development of rural and regional youth within this country and boasts incredible support from entrants, sponsors and organisers. Each year the achievement level is heightened and broadened. The contestants meet other young women from rural and regional NSW and gain great insights and personal development through this very rare opportunity.

Who can enter?

If you're female, aged between 18 and 24 and a permanent resident of Australia who has lived in the area for at least six (6) months, this could be your chance at the opportunity of a lifetime.

What commitment do I have to make?

There are three key events for entrants:

- An informal session where you get to meet the other entrants and will be provided with all the information required for your Showgirl journey. This session will be held on Sunday 20 January 2019 at 1:30pm, the venue is to be confirmed. Dress is casual for this event but do remember first impressions matter.
- The judging will take place on Sunday 3 February 2019, with the venue to be confirmed. You will be judged on a 15-minute interview with the panel of three judges and there will be lunch afterwards. Dress to impress for an interview in a smart skirt and top or dress. It's best to leave the skinny jeans, platforms and thongs at home if you want to make a good impression.

- The Showgirl Gala which will be held on Saturday 9 February 2019, which will be held in the McDonald Pavilion at the Showground. The evening will feature light refreshments, with beer, wine and soft drink available. This is your chance to meet the Maitland Show organisers, Show sponsors, plus various members of the community, which may include the Mayor and local members of parliament. Entrants will be expected to socialise with the guests and will be required to give a presentation. Dress for the evening will be semi-formal. Entrants are encouraged to invite friends and family, who can purchase a ticket for \$30 each. Dress for your guests is smart casual.
- Entrants are requested to attend the Maitland Show on Friday 15 to Sunday 16 February and take part in the various activities on offer.
- The winner of the Competition will be announced at the Official Show Opening on Friday 15 February.

The prizes...

First Prize	\$1000 courtesy of the Maitland Mercury \$200 voucher at Inspirations Hair \$100 voucher from Efagi Boutique 12-month gym membership at Hit-N-Dip Greenhills \$100 voucher from Devotion to Hair plus a gift basket
Second Prize	\$395 Seiko Watch from Baileys Jewellers \$150 voucher at Inspirations Hair 6-month gym membership at Hit-N-Dip Greenhills \$75 voucher from Devotion to Hair plus a gift basket
Third Prize	\$250 Chamber member dollars from Maitland Business Chamber \$100 voucher at Inspirations Hair 2-month gym membership at Hit-N-Dip Greenhills \$50 voucher from Devotion to Hair plus a gift basket

Prize winners will receive a bouquet courtesy of East Maitland Florist. All other entrants will receive a 2-month gym membership at Hit-N-Dip Greenhills, as well as a gift from Maitland Show.

Judging criteria

The criteria below are listed in terms of importance.

Personality	It's all about you! No, really it is, try to relax and present the best version of you.
General Knowledge	You need to know the local area and have an interest in what is going on in the community, the country and the world.
Rural/Regional Knowledge	Do you know a Queensland Blue from a Butternut, or a Murray Grey from a Jersey or sorghum from canola? It is important to understand and be able to discuss the issues facing regional and rural NSW.

Confidence	Confidence is so important, be confident in yourself and your ideas.
Ambitions and Goals	This competition is about being an ambassador for our community, so dream big and tells us all about what you would like to achieve.
Personal Presentation	This is not about looks but about being well presented and dressed appropriately for the occasion.
Diction and Speech	Be clear, confident and easily understood. Resist the urge to speak at high speed, even if you're nervous
On-stage Presentation	It sounds so simple, get up on stage and deliver a speech, but in reality it is a bit more challenging. Being a good public speaker is a valuable skill, which you will need if you want to succeed in the Competition.

How to enter...

Please complete the entry form, which is a fillable PDF, and available from the website:

www.maitlandshowground.com.au/2019/showgirl2019

You will also need to include a cover letter introducing yourself and explaining why you want to take part in the competition. Please attach a photo of yourself.

Completed entries can be emailed to:

office@maitlandshowground.com.au

Entries close: Friday 18 January 2019 at 12pm (midday)

For more information please contact:

- Margaret Enright, Showgirl Competition Co-ordinator, on 0422 769 053
- Maitland Show Office, on 4933 5052 or email office@maitlandshowground.com.au