

Foster & District Agricultural Show

Saturday 28th
February 2026



2026 Showday Information

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February

General Show: 9 am
Back to Back Wool: 8am

Foster Showgrounds
Station Rd, Foster

Adult \$15 online, \$20
at the gate
Concession \$10
Kids 12-17yo \$5
Kids Under 12yo FREE

www.fostershow.com

International challenge complements local show

On Saturday 28th February, 2026, the Foster Show will put on a celebration of the past year's accomplishments and talents in our community as well as hosting an international wool challenge - teams will race against the clock to spin and knit an adult jumper shorn straight from the sheep's back all in one day!

Established in 1903, the Foster Show will host an entertaining day for families, friends, the community and beyond. The Foster Showgrounds provides a spectacular venue, with the green rolling hills of South Gippsland and the striking Wilsons Promontory on the doorstep.

The show has transformed over the years, but 2026 still hosts traditional country-show exhibits, as well as some quirky ones unique to the Foster Show.

Agricultural shows were first established in Australia in the 1800s. They created a platform for farmers to showcase or sell their best produce and livestock. Today, with the rise of agricultural field days, and technology and media at our fingertips, our small Foster Show may not serve the purpose it was originally intended for. However, it provides so much more. Agricultural shows today provide an insight into rural life, as well as an opportunity to celebrate our local farmers and small town.

The Foster Show plays a key role in bridging the rural-urban divide, and with an emphasis on engaging families, plays a key role in educating the next generation too.

Foster Show Secretary, Denia Gilheany, has been on the show committee since November 2018, and enjoys working on a show that "the community is excited to be a part of". Come check out the Foster Show and perhaps see it in a new light in 2026. Or just come and check out all the fun the community has been enjoying for over 100 years.

We look forward to seeing you on showday!

*Foster Show
Committee*

President's message:

Here we are, all another year older and gearing up for the 118th Foster Show in 2026. Still on the fourth Saturday, being the 28th of February. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes in the year leading up to show day and it's not just organising showday itself. Much of 2025 has been spent applying for grants and advocating for the future of our grounds. We have been extremely fortunate to receive grant funding from the South Gippsland Shire Council to host the Back to Back Wool Challenge and; Agriculture Victoria to upgrade the power availability at the grounds which will hopefully benefit all grounds users for many years to come.

We have devoted many hours to discussion around the location of the Foster Skatepark at the Showgrounds and the impact it will have on the future of our show. With the preferred location adjacent to the playground where the woodchop is currently held, we invite you to contemplate what change in this space will bring for our event when you visit the grounds on showday. In order to offer the variety of attractions we strive to include on showday, further loss of useable groundspace will impact our capacity to offer competitions and attractions that have been part of the show for many years.

Our tireless and committed volunteers have been working behind the scenes and we hope to appeal to a wide

variety of show patrons as usual, particularly younger children. There's plenty of free stuff for kids on showday and it's worth noting that although freely provided, these attractions come at a growing cost for the Show Society. Without the support of many local families and businesses, particularly Bendigo Bank and South Gippsland Offroad, we would simply not be able to offer many showday favourites to our community. For a snapshot of what's on offer at our 2026 show please continue reading or visit our social media and website for more information. I hope to see you there and let's all have fun.

Noel Afflitto
President.
Foster and District Agricultural
Show Society.





What's new in 2026?

We're thrilled to host the **30th Annual International Back to Back Wool Challenge**. Two teams will race against the clock to spin and knit the wool shorn straight from the sheep's back into an adult jumper! There'll be lots of unique skills on show including the dying art of blade shearing. Wool comes off at 8am with teams expected to finish in the evening after 7:30pm. Teams would love your support and encouragement through this extreme endurance test so make your way to and from the Max Parnell Marquee throughout the day.

Cakes are king in 2026 with Decorated Cakes celebrating the sheep and wool theme of this year's show. To encourage and inspire the next generation of cake decorators, artist Sarah Parkes will host a **free cake decorating workshop between 10am and 12pm** to create delicious artworks made entirely from cake, lollies and fondant.

The **Animals of the Magical Mountains** is sure to be a hoot for families with music and dancing on showday. Keep an eye out for **roving entertainer**, Chris Morant, who will be stilt walking, balloon sculpting and giant bubble blowing.



Official Show Opening - 12pm

Bruce Crowl

Bruce Crowl has been an active member of the Foster & District A & P Society for 30 years, starting when he and wife Kate retired to the town. He attended the usual working bees before and after the show for many years. More importantly he assisted with the broadcast during the Show for probably 15 years - he would wander the Show gathering information about all things other than the horse events, and let the crowd know what was going on, and who the main prize winners were, and any other tidbits he gleaned.

Bruce's expertise in broadcasting began after the War when he trained and became a presenter firstly on radio, then TV, mostly with the ABC in Perth. He also had an extensive career in theatre both on stage and set building, including nearly 30 years with FAMDA.

He earned his stripes in the Navy during WWII as a signalman on HMAS Australia during the Phillipines invasion. He was on duty during the first of the Japanese kamakaze attacks, quite a scary situation.

Now, having attained his 100th birthday, Bruce still enjoys the many attractions at the Show - long may it continue!



Exhibit Shed

The exhibit shed will be transformed and filled with colour and creativity once again this year! Celebrating the Back to Back Wool Challenge, the sheep and wool theme extends through the exhibit shed in craft, cooking and knitting/crochet competitions. Keep an eye out for Decorated Cakes including an "Is It Cake?" class where competitors make an edible version of an everyday item!

Don't be afraid to have a go, entering is a great opportunity to gain valuable feedback from other exhibitors, stewards and judges on how you can put your best produce or craft forward in future. Some hot tips for showing dahlias:

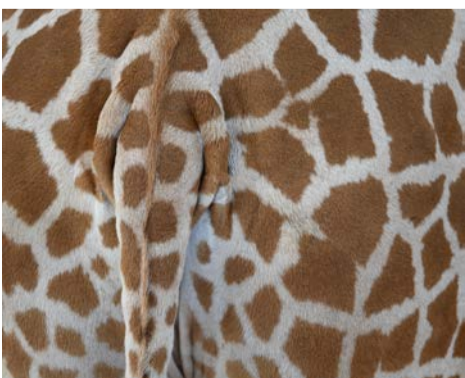
- size - measure your dahlias to ensure it's entered in the correct class
- symmetry - does one half mirror the other? The outer shape should be a perfect circle
- stem - should be without leaves and long enough to allow the flower to sit above the container.



Showday Highlights

Photography

We're excited to have printed photos back on display in the stadium in 2026 thanks to the South Gippsland Camera Club! Judge Damian Paull will be looking for photographers to "notice the small things, find beauty in everyday scenes, and capture moments that feel honest and meaningful". The 2025 Best Photo in Show (entered by Andrea O'Hara) pictured below certainly captures the magic and intricacy of animal markings.



Calf Classic

We're excited to see the Calf Classic bigger and better and 2026 with the lower age group now split into two classes - 5yrs and under and; 6-9yrs. This is a great opportunity for kids (and adults) to have their animal husbandry and handling skills recognised whilst also learning the tricks of the show trade from other exhibitors and competition stewards. Handcrafted trophies and fantastic feed prizes are up for grabs so bring your calf along and have a go!

Pumpkins

The Giant Pumpkin competition is back in its fourth year in 2026 thanks to Atlantic Seeds. Its been a tough season for growing much in South Gippsland, so don't be afraid to enter whatever you grew, even if it doesn't look "Giant" because it could be big enough to be a winner! If you didn't grow anything, don't despair - why not enter a decorated pumpkin? Check out the fabulous showday display, and try your luck in the 'guess the weight' competition. Or get a group together to submit a scarecrow in the scarecrow competition.



Poultry

Thanks to local woodcrafter, Rick Goodwin, there are some beautiful chook boxes to be awarded to the the Best Junior Exhibitor and Champion Bird of Show.

Entry is free to all classes and with more extra large bird cages this year we hope to see some geese and turkeys on display. Some tips for those new to the show scene:

- wash 2-3 days before show
- an old toothbrush is great for cleaning legs
- eggs should be same size and colour and be a true "egg" shape - large bottom and pointy top.

Showday Competitions

- Don't miss your shot at \$500 by backing Foster's Fastest Ferret in the **2026 SG Offroad Ferret Racing Cup**. Call or text 0425 728 525 to name your ferret
- Grab your pitch fork, and join in **Sheaf Tossing from 10am**. Before the invention of hay bales, farmers tossed sheafs of hay onto wagons and haystacks. Today the sheafs are tossed over a bar, seeing who can throw the highest. The world record is 19.25 metres. Foster is one of only three shows in Victoria to offer Sheaftossing!
- Meet us at the grandstand for some grand jumping with the **Dog High Jump** from 12:30pm
- Celebrate style and creativity with the free entry **Fashions on the Field competition!** No matter your age, showcase your unique flair, whether it is something you've made or your favourite character costume.
- Let it out with the **Spouse Shout!** Free entry and cash prizes up for grabs, show us your voice. Winner takes home an awesome handcrafted trophy from Ride the Wild Goat
- Mullets are king again in 2026 with the return of the **Mullet Competition** to the Fashion Stage. Free entry and awesome prizes, don't be afraid to celebrate your luscious locks /
- After a few years break, back in all its golden glory is the **Gumboot Toss** thanks to Bata! There's classes for kids, adults and seniors so get in and have a go!
- Whether you're a kid or an adult, don't miss your chance to celebrate your pet in the Paws and Ponies **Pet-Pawrade!**



Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I buy my ticket?

Save time and money by buying online via www.fostershow.com or scanning the QR code to the right. Tickets can be purchased at the gate using cash or eftpos at a higher rate (**\$20 at gate vs \$15 online**)



For help or queries regarding tickets please call Ticketebo on 1800 381 939.

Can I bring my dog? Yes! Well behaved dogs are allowed on-leash. While they are there enter them in the Pet Pawrade or the Dog High Jump!

Where do I park? Is there a bus? Get in early to park near the showgrounds. Otherwise use the Foster Show Shuttle Bus running between 10:00am & 4:00pm from: Foster Secondary College, Foster VLine Bus Stop, Foster Vet Clinic (Court St) and the Rail Trail Car Park. See our website for bus info.

Will there be rides and entertainment at the show?

Yes! There are a variety of rides for a small fee with the operators. There is plenty of free entertainment, including 300 free kids Beeline Showbags, Animals of the Magical Mountain music and dancing; roving entertainer, wildlife displays, face-painting, animal nursery, whip-cracking, craft with MyLi library, cake decorating, farmyard fun games and more!

What food is available?

There are a variety of food vendors catering to everyone's favourites: fair food, sausage sizzles, and devonshire teas, homemade treats, sandwiches and salads from the Toora FNC in the canteen next to the stadium.

How can I watch the Back to Back Wool Challenge?

Enter via the main gate if you plan to see the 8am start. There will be activity all day extending into the evening with the finish not expected to occur before 7:30pm.

When do entries close and where do I drop off exhibit shed entries?

Submit entries for exhibits and competitions by 5pm Wednesday 25th February, 2026.

Where:

- online via www.fostershow.com
- post to PO Box 150, Foster, 3960
- via the entry Box at Foster Foodworks
- or scan & email to fostershow@gmail.com

Entry drop off for the exhibit shed: Between 8am and 1pm on Friday 27th February 2026. Judging will commence at 2pm. Late entries will not be accepted.

Photography entries closed on Friday 20th February 2026 to allow for judging and image printing prior to showday.

Have a question on showday?

Our committee members can be easily found around the grounds in green shirts on showday otherwise head to the Secretary's Office in the Stadium.

Call 0425 728 525 for general enquiries or 1800 381 939 for ticketing support.



<p align="center">FOSTER & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOW</p>	<p align="center">SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2026 GATES OPEN 9AM</p>
<p align="center">www.fostershow.com  fosteragshow</p>	<p align="center">Foster Showgrounds, Station Rd, Foster, VIC</p>

SHOW GUIDE

OFFICIAL SHOW OPENING
12PM - MAIN ARENA

MORNING 2026 AFTERNOON

8:00	Back to Back Wool Challenge Starts
9:00	Garden Competition Presentation
	Beeline Free Showbag Trail for Kids available
9:30	On Farm Beef Challenge Presentation
	Young Farmers Kids Activities
	Whipcracking Demo with Emiliqua East
9:50	On Farm Dairy Challenge Presentation
10:00	Sheaftossing starts - Ladies & Novice
	Kids Cake Decorating Workshop til 12pm
10:15	Silage Quality & Bale Art Presentation
10:30	Calf Classic Begins
	Woodchop Begins
	Kids Dancing - Animals of the Magical Mountains
	CWA Sponge Baking Demonstration
11:00	Pet Paw-rade
	Ferret Racing
	Whipcracking Demo with Emiliqua East

11:30	Fashions on the Field
	Spouse Shout
	CWA Scone Baking Demonstration
11:45	Kids Whipcracking Workshop
12:00	Official Show Opening
	Kids Dancing - Animals of the Magical Mountains
12:30	Dog High Jump
13:15	CWA Sponge Baking Demonstration
	Sheaftossing recommences - Open
13:30	Mullet competition
	Whipcracker kids workshop
	CWA Scone Baking Demonstration
	Young Farmer Kids Activities
14:00	Gumboot Toss - on oval
	Kids Dancing - Animals of the Magical Mountains
14:30	Ferret Racing
15:00	Raffle winner drawn

LOCATION

Footy clubrooms
Cattle area near Ave of Ag
Basketball Stadium Foyer
Grandstand
Whipcracker near exhibit shed
Fashion Stage & Kids Zone (Netball courts)
Max Parnell Sheep Marquee
Ferret Racing near Poultry

ALL DAY FUN

- International Back to Back Wool Challenge
- Woodchop
- Working Dog Trials
- Poultry, Cattle, Horses, Sheep and More!
- Exhibit Shed Craft, Cookery, Flowers
- Photography Display
- Cat Show
- Caledonian Pipe Band 11:30-1:30
- Giant Pumpkins, Scarecrow Competition
- Avenue of Agriculture
- Emergency services
- Stalls, rides, and plenty of food!

FREE FOR KIDS ALL DAY

- Beeline Showbag Trail - 300 free Showbags
- Face painting
- Roving magic, balloon making, giant bubbles
- Animal Nursery
- Blacksnake Wildlife Display
- Whipcracking workshops
- Bricks 4 Kidz Lego Building
- Craft with MyLi Library

GETTING HERE

- Catch the free show shuttle bus from 10am at:
- VLine Bus stop
 - Foster Vet Clinic
 - Foster Secondary College
 - Rail Trail Carpark

Please note times are subject to change. Keep an eye on our website for more details.

www.fostershow.com

The Foster & District Show is only possible with the generous support of many local families and businesses as volunteers and sponsors. Thankyou to the The South Gippsland Shire Council Community Grants program that has supported the introduction of the International Back to Back Wool Challenge to our 2026 Show!

Platinum Sponsors

Community Bank
Toora & Foster

Bendigo Bank



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

