



# THE PIONEER

RURAL & RESIDENTIAL  
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## Stroud Show

DENISE HAYNES - 'R & R' RURAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY



afternoon session of the boxing tournaments. A couple of boxers in laddered tights would stand on a platform out the front of the tent and bang big bass drums while a man with a megaphone shouted "Roll up! Roll up!" He invited any likely lad to win ten pounds by going five rounds with any one of them. There were always some locals who fancied they could box a bit so the challenge would be accepted every time.

Friday the 13th & Saturday the 14th April 2012 will be Stroud Districts 90th Annual show.

Originally set up and given to the people by the A. A. Company as an amenity for the Stroud community, and under the control of a "Park and Common Trust", the Showground - or Park- has since been transformed with buildings and yards and tree plantings into one of the most attractive complexes in the State. Each year the Show brings together locals and visitors to enjoy displays and creations by district enthusiasts, and the traditional horse sports, cattle, poultry and dog exhibits, and carnival rides of a true Country Show.

**Extract from Mrs Beryl Bowden's memoirs of growing up in Stroud in the 1930's & 1940's:**

*The Stroud Show was an exciting time for us and Mum would sew and knit for weeks beforehand so that we had something new to wear.*

*Sitting in the grandstand with Dad, I loved to watch the camp draft, the 'hunts' and the flag and bending races. The programme always ended with the high jumps and, even though I was terrified that there would be an accident, I never missed watching this event.*

*Like all country shows Stroud also featured a number of sideshows and activities to entertain the crowd. About two o'clock on the Saturday a great hullabaloo heralded the*

*We were also intrigued by the Fat Lady, the Tattooed Lady, and the biggest pig in the world - Dinny the Pig.*

*The pavilions were always filled with entries in the cooking, sewing and fine arts. The prize-winners for the best sponge, scones and condiments were of great interest to some women and occasionally, much to the dismay of the favourites, a 'dark horse' would carry off some of the prizes. Also hotly contested were the vegetable and flower sections. The biggest pumpkin and the champion rose carried a certain amount of prestige for the winners, as did the first prize in the jams and jellies.*

*The Stroud Show Ball was held on the Friday night and was one of the main social events of the year. In addition to the locals it was patronised by some of the competitors in the horse events. I had a memorable dance with one of the young riders - he was still wearing his spurs and when my net frock became entangled in them I was not very pleased. Needless to say, he didn't walk me home.*

Attractions at this year's show include: Fence post splitting & wood chop, children's entertainment, rides & amusements, working dog trials & dog show, Brumby challenge, fireworks camp draft, horse events, local produce, demolition derby, live music, rodeo, skate park events, ute show, light show & sound off.

**Full schedule available online at: [www.stroudshow.com.au](http://www.stroudshow.com.au)**