THE COMPETITION
An Overview for Entrants

Introduction

ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition aims to find a young woman to act as an ambassador for rural, regional and remote NSW with her role involving many official and informal duties both at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and during her travels throughout NSW and potentially interstate.

Importantly, finalists must have a genuine interest in, and knowledge of, rural, regional and remote NSW. The Competition encourages the participation and subsequent awareness of rural women's contribution and involvement in both local communities and rural, regional and remote NSW.

In 1962, 20 young ladies entered the first 'Showgirl' Competition. The Winner, Miss Margaret McKay, the late Mrs. Margaret Pennefather, RAS Councillor, was awarded a sash, a silver tray and 250 pounds as first prize.

The competition has come a long way in the last 63 years and now, in 2027, the competition has further evolved to become known as ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition attracting approximately 250 young women annually to enter the competition throughout NSW with competitions being held across 100 Show Societies.

Entrants continue to be young rural women with purpose and ambition with the Competition playing a significant role in the overall development of rural youth within this country. The competition also boasts incredible support from entrants, sponsors, and organisers.

Each year the achievement level is heightened and broadened. The entrants meet other young women from rural, regional and remote NSW and gain great insights and personal development through this very rare experience.

Judging

The entrants are judged on general and rural knowledge, ambition and life goals, involvement in their local show and community, personality, confidence, presentation, and speech. Finalists are also asked to demonstrate knowledge of their local community and current affairs and apart from their potential ambassadorial qualities, they are also judged on their involvement in and experience of rural affairs.

These prerequisites have not changed since the inception of the 'Showgirl' competition in 1962, as the value of these skills has not diminished.

The winner of each local Show holds the title until the following year's Show. She performs various tasks, which could include opening a Show, public speaking throughout the year, presenting prizes for winners in agricultural events etc.

Each local Show Society is a member of one of fourteen groups (Group 15, the ASC Next Generation Group, is a non-geographical Group). Two groups combine to form one of seven Zones that make up the NSW area. In January, February and March of each year, Zone Finals are held in which each of the Zones select from all the winners put forward by each of the individual Societies, a representative for the State Final.

The number of representatives a Zone can have is based on the total number of entrants: if 1–10 Zone Finalists then a Zone can have one (1) State Final representative; 11–17 Zone Finalists then two (2) State Final representatives. Zones 6 and 7 can have three (3) State Final representatives when there are more than 17 entrants. The Judges for the Zone Finals are provided by AgShows NSW.

The State Final for the Competition is conducted by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and can host between 14 and 16 state finalists. Judges are nominated by the RAS with the judging being conducted over a six-day period.

Prizes for 2027

Please note prizes are subject to change without notice

- **1st Place**
  $7,500

- **2nd Place**
  $3,500

All Finalists receive:

- Seven days in Sydney during the Royal Easter Show – expenses paid
  (expenses include accommodation in Sydney, meals and travel within State Finalists itinerary)

Timetable

Judging at a local level takes place throughout the year at each of the participating local Show Societies with the judging for Zone Finals being conducted in January/February/March of each year and the State Final during the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Dates for Zone and State Finals are as follows:

Zone 1 Final	Wauchope	Saturday, 30 January 2027
Zone 2 Final	Hawkesbury	Saturday, 13 February 2027
Zone 3 Final	Cooma	Saturday, 23 January 2027
Zone 4 Final	Glen Innes	Saturday, 16 January 2027
Zone 5 Final	Cessnock	Saturday 16 January 2027
Zone 6 Final	Nyngan	Saturday, 13 February 2027
Zone 7 Final	Cootamundra	Saturday, 6 February 2027
State Final Program	Sydney Royal Easter Show	Wednesday 17 March – Sunday 21 March 2027 (TBC)
State Final Presentation	Sydney Royal Easter Show	Sunday 21 March 2027

Entry Requirements

1. The Competition is open to those who are permanent residents of Australia.

2. Entrants must be women aged from **18 years to less than 26 years as at 1 May in the year of the State Final.**

3. Entrants must reside, be educated, or work within New South Wales for at least three months prior to their local competition to qualify to compete within the State.

4. Only candidates nominated by an Agricultural Show Society are eligible for Zone and State Final judging.

5. Previous entrants in the competition are eligible to enter however they are not to have been one of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd placegetters in a previous State Final.

6. The following people are not eligible to enter the competition:

   a. Staff, Directors and Councillors of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW ("RAS").

   b. The daughters of the Staff, Directors and Councillors of the RAS.

   c. Current Rural Achiever applicants for the 2027 Sydney Royal Easter Show

7. Winning entrants who are employed or engaged in full-time studies will be required to obtain a leave of absence to attend Zone and State Final Judging.

8. The winner is requested, where possible, to represent the RAS, AgShows NSW and their local Show Society at agricultural shows.

9. The State Final Judging will take place in Sydney during the Sydney Royal Easter Show Wednesday 17 March – Sunday 21 March 2027, with specific program dates to be advised. Finalists will be guests of the RAS whilst in Sydney but will be required to pay their own travelling expenses to and from Sydney. Dates listed are subject to change.

10. The winner of the State Final and the first runner up will be required to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS following the main program to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show unless granted an exemption by the RAS of NSW.

11. All entrants are to abide by the Code of Conduct, as set out by the RAS and AgShows NSW, when acting as an ambassador for RAS, AgShows NSW or their local Show Society.

For further details and entry forms please contact your local Show Society or AgShows NSW on 02 9879 6777 or email **nicky.seeto@ascofnsw.org.au**

ZONE FINALS
An Overview for Zone Finalists

Introduction

Zone Finals are the next step in ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition after you have been successful in becoming the representative for your local Show.

The Zone Final is a prestigious occasion and one that each year is patronised by guests from all over NSW. There are seven Zone Finals in total, each Zone consisting of two Groups. The number of Societies in each Zone can be anything from 23–39. Depending on the number of entrants that have been nominated by Show Societies within the Zone, a Zone can put forward 1–3 Finalists into the State Final that is held in Sydney during the Royal Easter Show.

Being chosen as your community's 'Young Woman' and then proceeding to the next level is a very rewarding and fun experience but it can also be a daunting one. The following is a brief run-down on the Zone Finals that will hopefully give you a little insight as to what to expect.

Zone Final Coordinator

As with every phase of the competition, each of the Zone Finals has its own coordinator to organise everything and everybody. He/she will assist you in every aspect of the Zone Final and will be in contact with you as the time draws closer.

Travel and Accommodation

It is suggested the Show Societies provide their entrants with some support towards the necessary costs of attending the Zone Final Judging i.e., travel and accommodation. All incidental costs such as telephone calls, drinks and snacks are to be borne by the entrant.

The coordinator of the Zone Final will have pre-booked accommodation at a suitable hotel/motel and will advise either yourself or your local competition coordinator of where this will be. The Zone coordinator may also have a list of other accommodation around town that you may like to pass on to family and friends who may want to attend.

Please note that depending on how far away you live from the town that is hosting the Zone Final, and the time of your interview on the day, it may be worthwhile staying at the motel the night before to ensure that you are there on time.

Meals

The Show Society who is hosting the Zone Final will pay for the Judging Lunch and Presentation Dinner that each entrant must attend. All other meals are required to be paid for by the individual.

Timetable

The Zone Coordinator will forward you a copy of the timetable for the day's activities. This will include individual interview times for each entrant, the time of the judging lunch, and details of the Presentation Dinner in the evening.

Clothing

All Zone Finalists are required to wear smart daywear during their day interview and judging lunch. The evening function is a reasonably formal occasion, and it is therefore required for all finalists to be in evening wear. The minimum dress requirement for all other guests at the Presentation Dinner is lounge suit for men and after-5-wear for women. On some occasions the Zone Host may also make the Presentation Dinner black-tie; however, this will be advised closer to the date.

Judges

The sponsors of the Competition put all judges for each of the Zone Finals forward. On most occasions, the panel will consist of three judges, with at least one female and one male judge.

Judging

The judging criteria for the Zone Final are very similar to those which you would have been judged at your local competition. This will include:

- General Knowledge (local, Australian and international)
- Rural Knowledge (general, local, Show)
- Ambitions & Goals
- Volunteer/Community Participation
- Personality
- Confidence
- Personal Presentation (style, grooming, deportment)
- Presentation Ceremony Interview

Please note that you will need to attend an interview during the day, the judging lunch, and the evening presentation at which you will be required to address the audience. You will be judged on all the latter and therefore it is essential that you attend each of these segments of the Zone Final.

Presentation Dinner

As mentioned above, the Presentation Dinner is quite a formal affair and can vary greatly across the different Zones. Some have buffets whilst others have 3-course sit down meals; some have entertainment, but some don't; venues can vary from the pavilion at the Showground to the local RSL club or even a marquee. Whatever each Zone decides to do, the Presentation Dinner is a lot of fun for everyone and one that many hours of hard work have gone into coordinating by the organising Zone Host.

An MC/Compere will be engaged for the evening. This person may be a local personality or a guest celebrity such as a TV or radio announcer. Their role is to keep the evening flowing and running on schedule, and they will also introduce special guests to speak at various times during the night. However, one of their most important roles is to introduce each finalist to the assembled guests. They will invite each entrant up to the microphone, sometimes in the same order as they were interviewed or sometimes at random, at which time the MC/Compere will ask pertinent questions pertaining to the entrant's background. Each interview will be for approximately 2-3 minutes, and Judges will be looking at several things including your ability to address an audience, speech/diction, personality and presentation.

As each entrant finishes her on-stage interview, she will be required to stay up on the stage with all the other Zone Finalists whilst the Judges make their final decision. The winner/s will then be announced and subsequently sashed – this is quite often done by the out-going State Finalist/s who had won in that Zone the year prior. The State Finalist/s selected will be asked to make a short speech after which photographs will be taken by various photographers.

Post-Zone Finals

Should you have been successful at the Zone Final, the RAS Coordinator will then send you a copy of the Sydney Itinerary that includes a detailed run-down of your time in Sydney, accommodation information and what clothing will be required.

Immediately following the Zone Final, the nominated State Finalist is to email to the RAS Coordinator a **full resume** together with **a digital portrait photograph**. This material will be necessary to put together an information pack for the State Final Judges and for promotional purposes. **Early receipt of this material is essential**.

RAS & AgShows NSW Coordinators

Should you have any queries relating to the Competition at local or zone levels, please do not hesitate to contact the AgShows NSW Coordinator who will be very happy to assist you. All queries relating to the Competition at State level should be directed to the RAS Coordinator.

Nicky Seeto
AgShows NSW Coordinator

AgShows NSW
PO Box 1047
Hunters Hill NSW 2110

Ph: 02 9879 6777
Email: nicky.seeto@ascofnsw.org.au

Paige Cape
Head of Membership &
Agricultural Development
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW
Locked Bag 4317
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Ph: 02 9704 1111
Email: pcape@rasnsw.com.au

STATE FINAL COMPETITION
An Overview for State Finalists

The State Final of ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition is conducted in Sydney during the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The announcement of the 2027 winner will be held during the 2027 Sydney Royal Easter Show with specific dates to be advised.

Finalists arrive at the nominated hotel where they will be greeted and taken to the RAS Administration to meet RAS Staff and Councillors, who will brief them on what will happen over the seven days in Sydney.

Set out below is a guideline as to what finalists should expect during their time in Sydney. Please note that as the timetable is changed each year, the activities below are meant as a general indication only:

- Judging interviews
- Presentation of ribbons and awards at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
- Behind the scenes tours of Sydney Royal Easter Show competitions, animal sections and educational activations
- Professional Development Workshop
- Interviews and a photo shoot with ACCIONA
- Reception at Government House
- AgShows NSW Welcome Dinner
- Participation in other RAS activities

The Presentation is a highlight of the Sydney Royal Easter Show and will start at approximately 2.00pm on the nominated Sunday and will be held in the Amphitheatre, Sydney Showground.

For those who are lucky enough to be the winner or first runner-up, they will be asked to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Over the coming year, ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman will be invited to attend several events throughout rural, regional and remote NSW where she will act as ambassador for the RAS and AgShows NSW in addition to her own Show Society.

Wardrobe

All Finalists will be sent an itinerary prior to their time in Sydney. The itinerary will set out each day's schedule in addition to the recommended dress for each of these functions.

As a rule, however, smart day wear is required in most cases. Should there be any queries regarding dress prior to a Finalist receiving the above itinerary, they should be referred to the RAS Coordinator.

Accommodation

All Finalists will stay at a hotel located close to the Sydney Showground. All rooms are shared. If there are an odd number of Finalists, one Finalist may either be by themselves in a room or may share with the past winner. All meals and accommodation costs at the hotel will be paid for by the RAS; however, incidental costs such as phone calls, laundry, snacks and other incidental costs/sundry items will be at the finalist's expense.

Travel

Whilst in Sydney, Finalists will be transported between locations by coach as per their itinerary. Should any of the finalists wish to go out on any of their free evenings, the cost of taxis etc. shall be at the finalists' own expense. The cost of finalists getting to and from Sydney to participate in the itinerary will also be at their personal expense.

Meals

The majority of meals are included (breakfast, lunch and dinner – as per itinerary). Please note that some evening functions are cocktail, and any additional food will be at finalists' expense. All meal arrangements will be organised and confirmed as per itinerary. It is important that if any finalists have specific dietary requirements, the RAS Coordinator is advised as early as possible.

Should any Finalist have any queries regarding their time in Sydney prior to receiving information from the RAS, please do not hesitate to contact the RAS Coordinator who will be more than happy to assist.

PRIZE LIST

(Please note prizes are subject to change without notice)

2027 ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman (first place)

- $7,500

First Runner-Up (second place)

- $3,500

All State Finalists

- Seven-day Program in Sydney during the Sydney Royal Easter Show – expenses paid
- One-year complimentary RAS Membership

CONTACT LIST

NAME	COMMENTS	COMPANY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Mrs Jody Nelson-Gleeson	President	AgShows NSW	PO Box 1047 Hunters Hill NSW 2110	0430 284 455
Hugh Southwell	Vice President	AgShows NSW	PO Box 1047 Hunters Hill NSW 2110	02 9879 6777
Catriona McAuliffe	Vice President	AgShows NSW	PO Box 1047 Hunters Hill NSW 2110	02 9879 6777
Mrs Nicky Seeto	Chief Executive	AgShows NSW	PO Box 1047 Hunters Hill NSW 2110	0418 202 680
Ms Susan Wakeford	RAS Councillor in Charge, Young Woman	Royal Agricultural Society of NSW	Locked Bag 4317 Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127	02 9704 1111
Paige Cape	Head of Membership & Agricultural Development	Royal Agricultural Society of NSW	Locked Bag 4317 Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127	02 9704 1160

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FORM A
CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

FORM A - CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

I,....., accept the following Conditions of Entry:-
print your name

1. The Competition is open to those who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia.

2. Entrants must be female aged from **18 years to less than 26 years as at 1 May in the year of the State Final.**

3. Entrants must reside, be educated, or work within New South Wales for at least three months prior to their local competition to qualify to compete within the State.

4. Only candidates nominated by an Agricultural Show Society are eligible for Zone and State Final judging.

5. Previous entrants in the Young Woman Competition are eligible to enter; however, they are not to have been one of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd placegetters in a previous State Final.

6. The following people are not eligible to enter the Competition: - a) Staff, Directors and Councillors of the RAS; b) The daughters of the Staff and Councillors of the RAS; c) Current Rural Achiever finalists for the 2027 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

7. Winning entrants who are employed or engaged in full time studies will be required to obtain a leave of absence to attend Zone and State Final Judging.

8. The State Final Judging will take place in Sydney during the Sydney Royal Easter Show Tuesday 16 March – Sunday 21 March 2027 specific program dates to be advised. Finalists will be guests of the RAS whilst in Sydney but will be required to pay their own travelling expenses to and from Sydney.

9. The winner of the State Final and first runner up (2nd place getter) will be required to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, unless granted an exemption by the RAS of NSW.

10. The entrant authorises the RAS, ACCIONA, AgShows NSW and their local Show Society to incorporate any photograph and quote/s of the entrant in any public display (not limited to posters, footage or photographs) in connection with the promotion of the RAS, ACCIONA, AgShows NSW, local Show, ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition, the Sydney Royal Easter Show and the associated events in general.

11. All entrants are to abide by the Code of Conduct located at https://www.rasnsw.com.au/sydney-royal-competitions/competitions/the-sydney-royal-young-woman-of-the-year/about as set-out out by the RAS and AgShows NSW, when acting as an ambassador for the RAS, AgShows NSW or their local Show Society.

12. The Conditions of Entry shall constitute the whole agreement upon which an entry is submitted, and the entrant agrees that all representations and statements not appearing herein are excluded.

13. In consideration of the RAS accepting this entry, the entrant hereby indemnifies the RAS, AgShows NSW and the entrant's local Show Society against all claims losses suits and demands made against or suffered by the RAS, AgShows NSW or local Show Society by reason of any act or omission on the part of the entrant and that the entrant agrees that any act or omission on her part found in any action against the RAS, AgShows NSW and local Show Society to be negligence shall be deemed to have been negligence for the purposes of any claim under this indemnity.

14. The entrant hereby admits and acknowledges that she will participate in the Competition wholly at her own risk and hereby releases, holds harmless and indemnifies the RAS, AgShows NSW and the entrant's local Show Society including their servants and agents and Competition organisers at all levels in the terms of this release and indemnity contained in the Conditions.

15. It is a condition of entry that the entrant waives any right to claim against the RAS, AgShows NSW, local Show Society, Competition organisers at all levels or any sponsor or provider of prizes in connection with loss or injury suffered by the entrant or in relation to the decisions and directions of judges, stewards, officials and RAS staff and Councillors.

16. It is a condition of entry that in the event of the entrant suffering injury or loss or claim for compensation as a result of the entrants' actions, the entrant will fully indemnify each of the RAS, AgShows NSW, local Show Society and the Competition organisers at all Competition levels including any sponsor or provider of prizes, judges, stewards and officials.

17. The entrant acknowledges that Sydney Showground and other venues operate surveillance cameras for the safety and security of individuals and property in accordance with the Workplace Surveillance Act 2005.

18. The entrant will exercise reasonable care when performing tasks in a way that ensures the health and safety of themselves and others and will comply with the Work Health and Safety Rules of the RAS.

19. The entrant must disclose any medical condition/s reasonably expected to restrict tasks to be undertaken during the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The required information includes but is not restricted to dietary requirements, allergies, existing medical conditions and emergency contact details

20. Failure to comply with any of the above regulations may result in disqualification from the Competition.

21. The entrant understands that any aspect of the Competition may be subject to change amendment or cancellation occurring at any time and thereby making the information incorrect. Subject to the RAS' legal obligations and responsibilities.

I hereby apply to enter ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition in terms of and upon the conditions set out in the Conditions of Entry, which I have read and by which I agree to be bound in all respects including my admission to and presence on the Showground.

…… ……

Signature of Entrant **Date**

Personal Details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact

I agree to provide the details of my **Emergency Contact.** I note that this person must be readily contactable throughout my time in the ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition. This person is:

Name: _____ **Relationship to you:** _____

Contact Number/s: _____

PRIVACY INFORMATION: Information provided by you via this Form is used by the RAS and AgShows NSW to organise, process and conduct Competitions. Information may be collected electronically, via telephone or paper based and will be held securely at the RAS and AgShows NSW. By providing personal information, including but not limited to your name, telephone or mobile phone number, or information concerning yourself, you consent to your personal information being used for this purpose including this information being made available to AgShows NSW, Local Shows, RAS sponsors, RAS Foundation, breed societies, the media, the public, promotional purposes, archival purposes, published in RAS, AgShows NSW or Local Shows publications and could be made available to third parties for the purpose of promoting the RAS, AgShows NSW or Local Shows or the Competition, or as otherwise required by law. Your details will be handled in accordance with the RAS of NSW Privacy Policy, a copy of which is available at www.rasnsw.com.au. You have the right of access to and alteration of personal information containing yourself in accordance with Privacy Laws. This may be done by contacting the Coordinator of the Competition, the RAS Privacy Officer on (02) 9704 1111, or in writing to the RAS, Locked Bag 4317, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127. Should there be any complaints in relation to any of the RAS' processes and policies, the complainant should contact the RAS directly on (02) 9704 1111. All complaints will be dealt in accordance with the RAS Complaints Handling Procedure.

Please send all forms to:
AgShows NSW
PO Box 1047
Hunters Hill 2110

FORM B - ENTRANT DETAILS

Nominating Society: _____ Zone: _____

Name: _____

Age (as at 1 May of State Final Year): _____ Date of Birth: _____

Occupation: _____

Education Details: _____

_____

_____

_____

Hobbies/Sporting Interests:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Community Involvement (if any):

_____

_____

_____

_____

Ambitions/Goals:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Reason for entering the Competition:

_____

_____

_____

_____

I confirm that the information within this document is true and correct.

Signature_____ Date_____

If you have additional information to include, please attach up to one (1) single sided A4 page as a PDF. Please send in your Form B ASAP. Form B can be updated any time before going through to the Zone Final.

FORM C
LOCAL SHOW SOCIETY DETAILS

We, _____ of Zone: _____
(NAME OF SHOW SOCIETY)

Conducted a Local Competition during 2026/27 on: _____
(DATE OF COMPETITION)

The number of entrants for the Competition was: _____

Coordinator's name: _____

Coordinator's postal address (home): _____

_____

Coordinator's telephone: _____ (home) _____ (work)

Email address: _____

Do you have any queries regarding the Competition that the AgShows NSW Coordinator could assist you with?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

…… ……..
Local Coordinator's Signature Date

GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION JUDGES
Local & Zone Levels

INTRODUCTION

The aim of ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition is to find a person most suited to represent young rural women of NSW. This covers many official and informal situations during the Sydney Royal Easter Show, as well as her travels within NSW and interstate. The Society therefore seeks an articulate and presentable person with a pleasant personality.

The winner will be required to meet a wide variety of people and should be able to converse intelligently about Australia in general and her own district. She will be interviewed by press, radio and television and will be asked to speak about her experiences before a range of groups.

The RAS defines a 'local' representative as a person with strong personal, educational, or business associations within the local community. She must also be approved and nominated by her local Show Society and have a genuine interest in and understanding of rural and regional issues.

PROCEDURE

The following judging procedure is suggested for Local Competitions following a Zone Final format and Zone Finals:

Judging Panel: The individual Show Society selects Judges for local Shows. AgShows will advise Zone Hosts of the Judges for Zone Finals. Judging panels for Zone consist of three judges. The AgShows NSW Director will act as Chief Judge. The Chief Judge is responsible for guiding the judging process, ensuring it runs to schedule and collating the individual scores. The Chairperson should also hold the sealed envelope that nominates a runner-up. Judges must not have any conflict of interest with the Competition. Any potential conflict must be disclosed prior to the Judging appointment.

Venue: A venue for judging is selected by the Show Society/Zone Host. It is suggested that the Judges and entrants first meet as an informal group in a relaxed atmosphere so that entrants can get to know the Judges a little better prior to the interview. A separate room is set aside to interview each entrant individually. During the interview no other person is to be in the room.

Clothes: Judges are required to judge on dress and general presentation of the entrants. The entrants are interviewed in smart daywear. If desired, cocktail or evening clothes may be worn to the announcement of winners during an evening presentation for local Show level competitions. For Zone Finals, entrants must be in formal wear. Judges are required to wear **smart daywear (jacket and tie for males)** during the day and appropriate evening wear for evening presentations. At all Zone Finals the minimum requirement for evening wear will be lounge suit however this will be advised by the Zone Host.

Judging Timetable: The Coordinator will prepare a judging timetable that sets out entrant names and interview times. Time should be set aside prior to judging to formulate the questions and to select the Chairperson of the judging panel. Interviews take approximately 15 minutes depending on the number of entrants and each entrant *must* be allocated the same amount of time. It is recommended that five minutes be given between interviews for judges to discuss. No entrant should feel that she has not received the same amount of time with the judges.

Questions: Prior to judging, the coordinator will provide to each of the Judges a copy of the entrants' resumes, which can be used as the basis for discussion. The judges prior to interviews should prepare questions and a standard pattern should be set so that all entrants can be equally evaluated. For Zone Finals it is required that all entrants attending that Zone be asked the same set of questions. These may differ slightly to take account of the entrant's background; however, the overall context is to be the same in each case. An example of appropriate questions may include:

- Where employed or where studying.
- Discussion regarding their part of the country - primary production, industries, and any local areas of interest.
- Current affairs topic – State, Australian and International.
- Hobbies, sports, interests, participation in local Shows, social life, community involvement etc.
- Some general knowledge questions, e.g., who the Premier of NSW is, local Member of Parliament, topical issues.
- Future ambitions.
- Their view of the Competition and why they have entered.

Scoring: It is suggested that a standard points system of judging is used to assess the entrants. The coordinator will supply a set of judging forms to each Judge on the day of judging. It is also of assistance to write notes when several entrants are being interviewed over a long period of time.

Interview: Entrants are to be interviewed individually. The coordinator, or in some cases the out-going winner, will usher the entrant in and introduce her to the Judges by name and the Show Society she represents if at a Zone Final. Some entrants will be reserved at first and the judging panel should do everything possible to encourage the entrants to do most of the talking. This will provide an opportunity to assess her personality, her ease in handling the interview, her capacity to express herself clearly and logically and to evaluate her character. Arrange the interview room to be as comfortable and intimate as possible.

It may be apparent in the first few minutes that the entrant is not suitable, however it is crucial that the judging procedure is adhered to, and that each candidate feels that she has received full consideration and the nominated amount of time.

The Steward must always appear detached and impartial. Her presence and involvement should not influence the panel's decision in any way.

Note: Judges must refrain from any criticism of entrants during the interview or evening function as suggestions are often misinterpreted. They are asked not to mention personal political preferences or to make comments comparing entrants to those of previous years.

Conclusion of the Interview: Judges should advise each entrant not to discuss the questions put to her with other entrants. Entrants should be thanked for their participation.

Meal: It is suggested at local Show Competitions that the Judges have a meal with the entrants so that the Judges can observe each candidate in a social environment and assess their ability to mix freely with others, their dress sense, table manners and general etiquette.

At all Zone Finals a sit-down judging lunch is required.

Presentation Speeches/Interview: When at Zone level, Judges are to take the entrant's speech/interview during the evening presentation into consideration prior to making a final decision. Judging is not complete until after the speeches conclude at which time the finalist/s can then be decided upon. During this on-stage interview, Judges are required to assess the entrant's ability to address an audience. The entrant's composure, confidence and general dialogue should also be taken into consideration. When at local Show level, it is at the discretion of the individual Show Society whether to implement the above judging condition into their competition.

Selecting Placegetters: It is at the discretion of the individual Show Society whether to have only one winner or to select placegetters. If the latter is the case, it is usual to select a winner and runner-up, although sometimes Show Societies like to choose a third placegetter if there are many candidates. When judging has been completed, the Chief Judge is to write down the name of the winner, seal the name in an envelope and hand it to the official-in-charge. In the case of multiple placegetters, all names can be placed in the one envelope in order of merit or placed into individual envelopes. The envelope/s should be opened by a person selected by the Society at the formal announcement of placegetters. In the case of one winner only, and no other placegetters, the name and address of an agreed runner-up should be kept in confidence by the Chief Judge of the judging panel. In the event of the winner not being able to complete her reign as the local Show Young Woman, the second placegetter, whether publicly announced or not, should be invited to take up this role and therefore compete at the Zone Final.

At Zone Finals, Judges are required to select a runner-up whose name is to be kept in a sealed envelope and given to the AgShows NSW staff member present at the evening presentation. If at any time and for whatever reason a selected State Finalist is unable to take up her role as the representative for her Zone prior to the State Final taking place, the RAS Coordinator will contact the AgShows NSW Coordinator to ascertain who the runner-up is. That person will subsequently become the Zone's new State Finalist. The representative unable to attend will lose her title as State Finalist.

ACCIONA SYDNEY ROYAL AGSHOWS NSW YOUNG WOMAN COMPETITION

JUDGING SCORE SHEET – CUMULATIVE TOTALS

ENTRANT NAMES						
PERSONALITY (15 POINTS)						
CONFIDENCE (10 POINTS)						
AMBITIONS/GOALS (10 POINTS)						
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (LOCAL/AUST/INTERNATIONAL) (15 POINTS)						
RURAL KNOWLEDGE (GENERAL, LOCAL, SHOW) (15 POINTS)						
PERSONAL PRESENTATION (GROOMING, DICTION & SPEECH) (10 POINTS)						
VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION (15 POINTS)						
ON-STAGE INTERVIEW (10 POINTS)						
TOTAL …../100						
GENERAL NOTES						

ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition
Entrant Judging Score Sheet

NAME: _____ **SHOW SOCIETY:** _____

JUDGING CRITERIA	COMMENTS	POINTS
PERSONALITY		/ 15
CONFIDENCE		/ 10
AMBITIONS & GOALS		/ 10
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (Local/Aust/Intl)		/ 15
RURAL KNOWLEDGE (General, Local, Show)		/ 15
PERSONAL PRESENTATION (Grooming, Diction & Speech)		/ 10
VOLUNTEER/ COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION		/ 15
ON-STAGE INTERVIEW (if applicable)		/ 10
TOTAL		/ 100

GENERAL INFORMATION

Competition Objective

1. Identify ambassadors to promote the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and the Agricultural Show movement across New South Wales.

Entry

1. The Competition is open to those who are permanent residents of Australia.

2. Entrants must be women aged from 18 years to under 26 years as at 1 May in the year of the State Final.

3. Entrants must reside, be educated, or work within New South Wales for at least three months prior to their local Competition to qualify to compete within the State.

4. Only candidates nominated by an Agricultural Show Society are eligible for Zone and State Final judging.

5. Previous entrants in the competition are eligible to enter however they are not to have been one of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd placegetters in a previous State Final.

6. The following individuals are not eligible to enter the Competition:

    a. Staff, Directors and Councillors of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS).

    b. The daughters of the Staff, Directors and Councillors of the RAS.

    c. Current Rural Achiever finalists for the 2027 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

7. Winning entrants who are employed or engaged in full-time studies will be required to obtain a leave of absence to attend Zone and State Final Judging.

8. The winning finalist is requested, where possible, to represent the RAS, ACCIONA, AgShows NSW and their local Show Society at Agricultural Shows.

9. The State Final Judging will take place in Sydney during the Sydney Royal Easter Show Tuesday 16 March – Sunday 21 March 2027 with specific program dates to be advised. Finalists will be guests of the RAS whilst in Sydney but will be required to pay their own travelling expenses to and from Sydney.

10. The first and second placegetters of the State Final will be asked to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

11. All entrants are to abide by the Code of Conduct, as set out by the RAS and AgShows NSW, when acting as an ambassador for RAS, AgShows NSW, or their local Show Society. Refer to page 48 of this document for the Code of Conduct.

Zone Finals

1. Zone Finals are conducted over six weeks. All Zone Final Presentations are to be held on a Saturday evening.

2. Show Societies wishing to be a Zone Host for the following year's competition should submit an "Application to Hold a Zone Final" form to AgShows NSW prior to the May/June AgShows NSW Meeting. Successful Zone Hosts will be notified in writing by AgShows NSW of the date of their Zone Final.

3. Zone Final Judging for 2027 will be conducted from the 16 January 2027 – 13 February 2027.

4. Representation of a local finalist at a Zone Final will only be permitted when all three Forms A, B & C and a photograph have been received by the AgShows NSW Coordinator.

5. Only one (1) representative from each local competition will be eligible to attend their Zone Final as a Finalist irrespective of the number of local entrants the local Competition attracted. If the winner is unavailable, then the 2nd Placegetter will attend the Zone Final as Zone Finalist for the local Show Society. If finalists from consecutive years are eligible for the Zone Final, the finalist from the earlier year is the eligible representative.

6. In the above case where the 2nd Placegetter attends the Zone Final, the original titleholder will retain all prizes, including title, unless there was a breach in the Conditions of Entry or Code of Conduct. In this case the matter is to be referred to the AgShows NSW Coordinator. A local sash must be made available for the 2nd Placegetter in this case.

7. The number of Zone Final representatives that can be chosen to attend the State Final in Sydney is dependent on the number of entrants a Zone has, and which is allocated as follows:

1 - 10 Zone Finalists	1 State Final Representative
11 – 17* Zone Finalists	2 State Final Representatives

**Zones 6 & 7 will have the opportunity to have 3 State Final Representatives if they receive more than 17 Zone Finalists.*

8. It is the responsibility of local Show Societies to pay the travelling and accommodation expenses (maximum of two nights) for their candidate to and from Zone Finals. It is the responsibility of the Zone Host to pay for the entrant's meal during the judging lunch and Zone Final Presentation.

State Finals

The State Final Judging will take place in Sydney during the Sydney Royal Easter Show Wednesday 17 March – Sunday 21 March 2027, with specific program dates to be advised, with the judging concluding at the State Final Presentation. Finalists will be guests of the RAS whilst in Sydney but will be required to pay their own travelling expenses to and from Sydney.

1. Two placegetters will be announced on the day of the State Final Presentation: Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman (winner - 1st place) and First Runner Up (2nd place)

2. Further details regarding the itinerary of the finalists' stay in Sydney will be sent to all State Finalists by the RAS Coordinator once the Zone Coordinator advises the AgShows NSW Coordinator, in writing, of the winning finalists' name and contact details

3. Show Societies wishing to invite State Finalists or the Winners of the competition to their Shows should be prepared to pay for travelling costs and accommodation if warranted. The rate of travel can be obtained from AgShows NSW.

4. The winner of the State Final and first runner up will be required to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, unless granted an exemption by the RAS of NSW.

Zone Final Groupings

ZONE 1 (Groups 1 & 2)	**ZONE 2** (Groups 4 & 5)	**ZONE 3** (Groups 6 & 7)	**ZONE 4** (Groups 13 & 14)	**ZONE 5** (Groups 3 & 12)	**ZONE 6** (Groups 10 & 11)	**ZONE 7** (Groups 8 & 9)
Alstonville	Albion Park	Adelong	Armidale	Baradine	Bathurst	Albury
Bangalow	Berry	Batlow	Ashford	Binnaway	Bedgerabong	Ardlethan
Bellingen	Blacktown	Bega	Barraba	Bulahdelah	Blayney	Ariah Park
Bonalbo	Bowral	Bemboka	Bingara	Cessnock	Bourke	Barellan
Camden Haven	Camden	Bombala	Bundarra	Coonabarabran	Canowindra	Barham
Casino	Castle Hill	Boorowa	Brewarrina	Dunedoo	Carcoar	Berrigan
Coffs Harbour	Dapto	Braidwood	Dorrigo	Dungog	Cobar	Bribbaree
Comboyne		Bungendore	Glen Innes	Gosford	Condobolin	Cootamundra
Gloucester	Hawkesbury	Canberra	Gunnedah	Gresford	Coonamble	Corowa
Grafton	Kangaroo Valley	Candelo	Guyra	Gulgong	Cowra	Culcairn
Kempsey	Kiama	Cobargo	Inverell	Lithgow	Cudal	Deniliquin
Kyogle	Luddenham	Cooma	Manilla	Maitland	Cumnock	Finley
Lismore	Menangle Park	Crookwell	Moree	Mendooran	Dubbo	Ganmain
Macksville	Milton	Dalgety	Mungindi	Merriwa	Eugowra	Griffith
Maclean	Minto	Delegate	Narrabri	Morisset	Forbes	Hay
Mullumbimby	Moss Vale	Eurobodalla	Quirindi	Mudgee	Gilgandra	Henty
Murwillumbah	Nowra	Goulburn	Tamworth	Muswellbrook	Grenfell	Hillston
Nabiac	Penrith	Gundagai	Tenterfield	Newcastle	Gulargambone	Holbrook
Nimbin	Picton	Gunning	Uralla	Oberon	Koorawatha	Illabo
Taree	Robertson	Jerrawa	Walcha	Rydal	Molong	Junee
Wauchope	St Ives	Nimmitabel	Walgett	Rylstone-Kandos	Morongla	Lake Cargelligo
Wingham		Pambula	Warialda	Singleton	Murrumburrah	Leeton
Woodenbong		Queanbeyan	Wee Waa	Stroud	Narromine	Lockhart
		Tarago		Wyong	Neville	Narrandera
		Taralga			Nyngan	Silver City
		Tumbarumba			Orange	Temora
		Tumut			Parkes	The Rock
		Yass			Peak Hill	Ungarie
					Sofala	Wagga Wagga
					Tooraweenah	Wakool
					Trundle	Walbundrie
					Trunkey Creek	Weethalle
					Tullamore	Wentworth
					Warren	West Wyalong
					Wellington	
					Woodstock	
					Yeoval	
					Young	

ZONE FINAL DATES – 16 JANUARY TO 13 FEBRUARY 2027

ZONE 1 – WAUCHOPE **Saturday 30 January**
Contact: Nikki Dein
Address:
Phone:
Email: nikkidean@gmail.com

ZONE 2 – HAWKESBURY **Saturday 13 February**
Contact: Katherine Mann
Address:
Phone:
Email: kmann.92@gmail.com

ZONE 3 – COOMA **Saturday 23 January**
Contact: Leanne Mackay and Danielle Mackay
Address:
Phone:
Email: showgirlcpaa@outlook.com

ZONE 4 – GLEN INNES **Saturday 16 January**
Contact: Emily Burton
Address:
Phone:
Email: emburton024@gmail.com

ZONE 5 – CESSNOCK **Saturday 16 January**
Contact: Shiralee Adams
Address:
Phone:
Email: shiralee.adams2@gmail.com.

ZONE 6 – NYNGAN **Saturday 13 February**
Contact: Bec George
Address:
Phone:
Email: nynganshowsociety@gmail.com

ZONE 7 – COOTAMUNDRA **Saturday 6 February**
Contact: Jessica Bush
Address:
Phone:
Email: jessicajanebush@gmail.com

HOW DOES IT ALL WORK

An Overview for New Coordinators

The following is a brief explanation on the running of ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition from Local Level to the State Final in Sydney. It is meant as a guide only for newcomers to the Competition and for those who are unsure of the Competition's structure.

1. The RAS and AgShows NSW Coordinators will prepare after Sydney Royal each year, an updated copy of the Conditions & Guidelines and promotional poster, which can be downloaded from https://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/competitions/youngwoman
   Promotional information can be displayed in shops and/or local newspapers etc. by the local Show Society. Young women enter the competition by contacting the Show Society or by nomination and must complete Form A "Conditions of Entry" and Form B "Entrant's Details" prior to entering. There is no entry fee for the competition and money does not need to be raised by the entrant.

2. The winning entrant of a local Show Society holds to position for one year until the next Show and performs various tasks which could include opening the Show, public speaking throughout the year, presenting prizes for winners in agricultural events, assisting in organising the next year's Competition and encouraging entry by speaking with potential candidates.

3. On completion of a local Competition, each Show Society emails Forms A, B, C, and a digital photograph of the winning entrant to the AgShows NSW Coordinator and their Zone Final Coordinator.
   For Zone Final photo guidelines go to
   https://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/static/uploads/files/form-b-photo-guidelines-wfzwrneosndm.pdf

4. Following an entrant's success at their local Show, they then go on to a Zone Final. Each local Show Society is a member of one of fourteen groups who come under the umbrella of AgShows NSW. Two groups combine to form one of seven Zones that make up the NSW area. In January, February and March of each year, at Zone Finals the Zone judges select from all the local winners put forward by each of the individual Societies, a representative for the State Final. The number of representatives a Zone can have is based on the total number of entrants that are put forward by their two groups: if 1–10 Zone Finalists then a Zone can have one (1) State Final representative; 11–17 Zone Finalists then a Zone can have two (2) State Final representatives. If Zone 6 and 7 have more than 17 Zone Finalists, they can have three (3) State Final Representatives. The sponsors of the event provide the judges for the Zone Finals. AgShows NSW advises each Zone who their judges will be. At no time should the judges' names be promoted or advertised prior to the judging.

5. The State Final for the Competition is conducted by the RAS at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and can host between 14 and 16 entrants. Judges are selected by the RAS. Judging criteria is based on general and rural knowledge, ambition and life goals, involvement in their local show and community, personality, confidence, presentation, and speech. In addition to a twenty-minute interview, the finalists partake in various social functions in which the above elements are also judged. A Presentation Ceremony is held at the Show where two prizes are awarded - the State Final Winner (1st Place) and First Runner Up (2nd Place). All finalists stay in Sydney for seven days as guests of the RAS while the winner of the State Final and the second placegetter will be asked to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Other finalists may leave Sydney after all official program Functions.

HOW DOES IT ALL WORK

An Overview for New Coordinators (continued)

6. Whilst in Sydney the finalists attend a variety of functions and activities in addition to presenting prizes/awards to various winners in agricultural competitions taking place at the Show. The winner acts as an ambassador for NSW during her year and represents the RAS, ACCIONA, AgShows NSW and her local Show Society at any function to which she is invited during the year.

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISING A LOCAL COMPETITION

Show Societies need to be aware of changes to the Privacy Act and may need to seek advice as to how it might apply to the conduct of their competition at their show.

There are no set guidelines on how Show Societies must run their Young Woman Competition. Some Show Societies hold a Competition each year, some only every second year and some do not hold one at all but will put forward an entrant to Zone if they are approached by an eligible candidate.

The suggested guidelines below for organising a Competition at a local Show are modelled on the Zone Final format. The benefit of following these guidelines is that it prepares the entrants for the Zone and State Finals.

Entrants

Participating Show Societies in ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition have either a committee or a coordinator who is responsible for conducting their local competition. It is one of their responsibilities, whether they do it themselves or are assisted by the whole Committee, to obtain entrants for the Competition.

There are several ways to encourage young women to enter a few of which may include:

- Advertising in the local paper with a section that the entrant can fill out and return to the Committee.

- Letters to young women who are likely to enter or that members of the Show Society think may be interested.

- Approach local businesses to sponsor/provide prizes and at the same time ask if they have any suitable candidates in their organisation who they would like to nominate – this is a good way to get your supporters really involved.

- Involve your current representative– she may be able to talk with senior/college students or there may be some youth clubs that she could address. It is very beneficial to have someone who is the same age as the entrants to speak with them about the benefits of the Competition.

- Have an information stand at the local shopping centre, field days, fetes etc. to promote not only ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition but also other competitions that your Show Society runs. This is also a good opportunity to try and increase your membership.

It may also be worthwhile to provide those interested with a copy of “The Competition - An Overview for Entrants”. It will provide potential entrants with some background information on the Competition and what to expect.

Obtaining applications takes time so start early and be prepared to use your imagination in encouraging entries. Do not be disheartened if you are unable to attract as many entrants as you would like – it is quality, not quantity that we are all looking for.

Section 7D (1)(a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (SDA) allows the NSW Young Women Competition to only be open to female applicants, as a positive discrimination to take 'special measures' to foster greater equity by supporting women's leadership in rural and regional NSW.

The application for entry should ask for the applicant to positively identify herself as a female to determine the eligibility for entry. This positive confirmation should not require any further evidence. However, if required, the government guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender provides that sufficient evidence of being a female could be one of the following documents:

- A valid Australian passport; or
- A birth certificate; or
- A statement from a Registered Medical Practitioner which specifies their gender; or
- A statement from a Registered Psychologist which specifies their gender.

Organisation Prior to the Judging Day

The secret to organising a successful competition is to prepare everything well in advance and not leave everything until the last minute. This not only ensures that everything runs smoothly but also takes a lot of pressure off the Coordinator on the day and makes it a much more enjoyable event for everyone involved.

- Approach local businesses etc. for sponsorship.

- Sashes to be ordered.

- All entry forms are to be filled in and given to the Coordinator prior to judging.

- Select three judges and confirm their availability. It is preferable to have at least one male and at least one female judge however this is not mandatory. Ensure they receive ample notice of the date for the judging and that a copy of the Judges Guidelines and each of the entrants' Form B is given to them prior to the day. At least one of the judges should have knowledge of the local area and try to ensure that no judge is closely related to any entrant.

- Keep your local media advised of entrants and supply photographs, background information or contact details of the entrant if required – first check with the entrants that they do not mind their contact details being given out. Do not forget to include the name of sponsors/supporters in any media releases that you send out. Ensure that any media releases are in good faith. Prior to your Show you may also like to gain a little more media exposure by taking the entrants, for example, for a visit to a nursing home (a great experience for all concerned), a livestock auction, to visit school children, a visit to a local property preparing exhibits for the Show etc. There are a lot of good promotional opportunities for both the finalists and your Show. Just remember to let your local media know.

- Organise for the nominated people e.g., President, Group Delegate etc. to speak at the Presentation – give them a copy of the Presentation program so they know when they are required to speak.

- Select and book, if required, a suitable venue at which to conduct the interviews and the Presentation function if you are having one.

- Put together a schedule for the day's activities e.g., interview timetable, morning and afternoon teas, lunch etc.

- Advise all entrants of the judging day's schedule so that they can arrange to have this time available. You may need to change some of the judging times around to suit everyone.

- Arrange for a lunch or morning/afternoon tea to be served during the day to enable judges to interact in a social environment with the entrants.

- Pre-arrange for someone to be available to greet the entrants on arrival and to introduce them to the judges. Utilising past finalists to act as hostesses during the day often works well.

- Have a meeting with the Committee and entrants prior to judging. Explain what the procedure will be on the day and ensure that they have a copy of the timetable. Any questions can be answered at this time. It is also a very good opportunity for the girls to get to know each other and to feel a little more at ease – this is supposed to be fun.

- It is advisable for the MC/Compere to briefly meet the entrants prior to the Presentation ceremony to prepare them for the Presentation interview and subsequent speech to follow.

- Organise a gift for each of the entrants such as flowers etc. (optional), and/or Certificate of Appreciation for entering the Competition and a small token of appreciation for the judges.

Judging Day

- Start on time and keep as close to schedule as possible. Allow a minimum of 15 minutes for judging and five minutes for discussion between judges once the entrant leaves the room.

- Make sure the room is set up with adequate chairs, water/glasses, paper, pens, tea, coffee etc.

- Judges to each be issued with a separate judging sheet for each entrant. Note that these sheets are to be destroyed by the judges at the conclusion of the judging process.

- Have extra copies of entrants' Form B available for judges who forget to bring their copy.

- Greet the entrants and make them feel as comfortable as possible. When their interview time comes around, take the entrant into the room, and introduce them to each of the judges.

- Provide an envelope/s for the Judges in which to place the winner's name. A separate envelope is required for each placegetter, if more than one. Please note that unlike a Zone's entrant/s into the State Final, which may be greater than one person depending on the entry numbers, a local Show Society can only have one entrant in a Zone Final.

Announcement of the [Local Show] Young Woman Winner

- The announcement of the Winner is a major attraction for your Show so make the most of it. Ensure that the local media has been advised of the time for the impending announcement so that they can organise to have someone present.

- Most of the Show Societies make the announcement on the day of their Show prior to the Official Opening. However, due to the timing of Zone Finals, with some local Shows only being a week or

two prior to the Zone Final, some Show Societies may decide to announce the winner of their Competition at a function several weeks, or sometimes even months, before their Show. This allows the winner time to prepare herself for the Zone Final and allows both the Zone Final Coordinator and the AgShows NSW Coordinator enough time to receive the relevant documentation prior to Zone Finals. In some instances, it also allows the entrant to compete in the current years' Competition rather than waiting until the following year, which happens when a local Show falls after their Zone Final date. Both the above methods work well, and it is therefore up to the circumstances of the individual Show as to which one is most suitable for their situation.

- Involve the previous year's Winner at the announcement e.g., sashing the new winner, making an exit speech etc.

- Being a representative in ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman competition means being involved in your local Show.

Post-Show

- Thankyou letters should be sent out to all concerned including entrants, judges, sponsors/supporters, volunteer helpers etc.

- A **photocopy of Form B and a photograph of the winner** should immediately be sent to your **Zone Final Coordinator** with another digital photograph and the **original** copy of **Forms A, B and C** being emailed and sent to the **AgShows NSW Coordinator**. The Zone Final Coordinator has a lot to do, and it is imperative that all information regarding each of the Zone Finalists is received as soon as possible. Please note that **entry into Zone Finals will only be accepted on receipt of the above documentation.**

- Ensure your winner is briefed on what to expect at the Zone Final. Some of the issues to cover include judging criteria, presentation speech, dress requirements, accommodation, travel, and meals. See "Zone Finals – An Overview for Zone Finalists". The Zone Final Coordinator will have a list of accommodation that she has put on hold until a specified date for the Zone Final entrants. Prior to this date the Show Society will need to confirm the booking for their entrant.

- In the case of the winner not being able to attend the Zone Final, the 2nd placegetter should be invited to take her place. Under these circumstances, the original winner retains any prizes that were awarded in addition to her title for the following year. A local sash must be made available for the 2nd placegetter in this case.

- Should the winner not be able to attend the Zone Final due to a breach in the Conditions of Entry or Code of Conduct, the individual case is to be referred to the AgShows NSW Coordinator for consideration.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Zone Finals

1. Zone Finals are conducted over six weeks. All Zone Final Presentations are to be held on a Saturday evening.

2. Show Societies wishing to be a Zone Host for the following year's competition should submit an "Application to Hold a Zone Final" form to AgShows NSW prior to the May/June AgShows NSW Meeting. Successful Zone Hosts will be notified in writing by AgShows NSW of the date of their Zone Final.

3. Zone Final Judging for 2027 will be conducted from the 16 January 2027 – 13 February 2027.

4. ACCIONA is the naming rights sponsor of the NSW Young Woman Competition. Their sponsorship is extended to Zone Finals, providing funding to assist host Societies in delivering high-quality regional events. Zone Finals are to be known as the 'ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Zone Final'.

    a. Participating Zone Finals receive $3,000 sponsorship support (or $4,000 for Zones with more than 17 finalists present at the Zone final, provided sponsorship deliverables are met. Sponsorship deliverables to include:
        i. Pull-up banner display
        ii. Acciona logo placement in the event booklet
        iii. Acknowledgment as a Sponsor of the Young Woman Program by the MC on the evening.
        iv. 2 tickets to the Zone Final dinner for Acciona representatives

5. Representation of a local finalist at a Zone Final will only be permitted when all three Forms A, B & C and a photograph have been received by the AgShows NSW Coordinator.

6. Only one (1) representative from each local competition will be eligible to attend their Zone Final as a Finalist irrespective of the number of local entrants the local Competition attracted. If the winner is unavailable, then the 2nd Placegetter will attend the Zone Final as Zone Finalist for the local Show Society. If finalists from consecutive years are eligible for the Zone Final, the finalist from the earlier year is the eligible representative.

7. In the above case where the 2nd Placegetter attends the Zone Final, the original titleholder will retain all prizes, including title, unless there was a breach in the Conditions of Entry or Code of Conduct. In this case the matter is to be referred to the AgShows NSW Coordinator. A local sash must be made available for the 2nd Placegetter in this case.

8. The number of Zone Final representatives that can be chosen to attend the State Final in Sydney is dependent on the number of entrants a Zone has and which is allocated as follows:

1 - 10 Zone Finalists	1 State Final Representative
11 – 17* Zone Finalists	2 State Final Representatives

**Zones 6 & 7 will have the opportunity to have 3 State Final Representatives if they receive more than 17 Zone Finalists.*

9. It is the responsibility of local Show Societies to pay the travelling and accommodation expenses (maximum of two nights) for their candidate to and from Zone Finals. It is the responsibility of the Zone Host to pay for the entrant's meal during the judging lunch and Zone Final Presentation.

ZONE 1 (Groups 1 & 2)	**ZONE 2** (Groups 4 & 5)	**ZONE 3** (Groups 6 & 7)	**ZONE 4** (Groups 13 & 14)	**ZONE 5** (Groups 3 & 12)	**ZONE 6** (Groups 10 & 11)	**ZONE 7** (Groups 8 & 9)
Alstonville	Albion Park	Adelong	Armidale	Baradine	Bathurst	Albury
Bangalow	Berry	Batlow	Ashford	Binnaway	Bedgerabong	Ardlethan
Bellingen	Blacktown	Bega	Barraba	Bulahdelah	Blayney	Ariah Park
Bonalbo	Bowral	Bemboka	Bingara	Cessnock	Bourke	Barellan
Camden Haven	Camden	Bombala	Bundarra	Coonabarabran	Canowindra	Barham
Casino	Castle Hill	Boorowa	Brewarrina	Dunedoo	Carcoar	Berrigan
Coffs Harbour	Dapto	Braidwood	Dorrigo	Dungog	Cobar	Bribbaree
Comboyne	French's Forest	Bungendore	Glen Innes	Gosford	Condobolin	Cootamundra
Gloucester	Hawkesbury	Canberra	Gunnedah	Gresford	Coonamble	Corowa
Grafton	Kangaroo Valley	Candelo	Guyra	Gulgong	Cowra	Culcairn
Kempsey	Kiama	Cobargo	Inverell	Lithgow	Cudal	Deniliquin
Kyogle	Luddenham	Cooma	Manilla	Maitland	Cumnock	Finley
Lismore	Menangle Park	Crookwell	Moree	Mendooran	Dubbo	Ganmain
Macksville	Milton	Dalgety	Mungindi	Merriwa	Eugowra	Griffith
Maclean	Minto	Delegate	Narrabri	Morisset	Forbes	Hay
Mullumbimby	Moss Vale	Eurobodalla	Quirindi	Mudgee	Gilgandra	Henty
Murwillumbah	Nowra	Goulburn	Tamworth	Muswellbrook	Grenfell	Hillston
Nabiac	Penrith	Gundagai	Tenterfield	Newcastle	Gulargambone	Holbrook
Nimbin	Picton	Gunning	Uralla	Oberon	Koorawatha	Illabo
						Junee
Taree	Robertson	Jerrawa	Walcha	Rydal		
Wauchope	St Ives	Nimmitabel	Walgett	Rylstone-Kandos	Molong	Lake Cargelligo
Wingham		Pambula	Warialda	Singleton	Morongla	Leeton
Woodenbong		Queanbeyan	Wee Waa	Stroud	Murrumburrah	Lockhart
		Tarago		Wyong	Narromine	Narrandera
		Taralga			Neville	Silver City
		Tumbarumba			Nyngan	Temora
		Tumut			Orange	The Rock
		Yass			Parkes	Ungarie
					Peak Hill	Wagga Wagga
					Sofala	Wakool
					Tooraweenah	Walbundrie
					Trundle	Weethalle
					Trunkey Creek	Wentworth
					Tullamore	West Wyalong
					Warren	
					Wellington	
					Woodstock	
					Yeoval	
					Young	

ZONE FINAL DATES – 16 JANUARY TO 13 FEBRUARY 2027

ZONE 1 – WAUCHOPE **Saturday 30 January**
Contact: Nikki Dein
Address:
Phone:
Email: nikkidean@gmail.com

ZONE 2 – HAWKESBURY **Saturday 13 February**
Contact: Katherine Mann
Address:
Phone:
Email: kmann.92@gmail.com

ZONE 3 – COOMA **Saturday 23 January**
Contact: Leanne Mackay and Danielle Mackay
Address:
Phone:
Email: showgirlcpaa@outlook.com

ZONE 4 – GLEN INNES **Saturday 16 January**
Contact: Emily Burton
Address:
Phone:
Email: emburton024@gmail.com

ZONE 5 – CESSNOCK **Saturday 16 January**
Contact: Shiralee Adams
Address:
Phone:
Email:

ZONE 6 – NYNGAN **Saturday 13 February**
Contact: Bec George
Address:
Phone:
Email: nynganshowsociety@gmail.com

ZONE 7 – COOTAMUNDRA **Saturday 6 February**
Contact: Jessica Bush
Address:
Phone:
Email: jessicajanebush@gmail.com

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISING A ZONE FINAL

ZONE FINAL APPLICATION

The Application: An "Application to Hold a Zone Final" form is sent to all Show Societies from AgShows NSW (Agricultural Societies Council of NSW (ASC)). Forms are to be completed and returned to AgShows NSW no later than the closing date indicated on the form. This date will coincide with the AgShows NSW meeting in May/June of each year.

Successful Zone Hosts will be notified in writing by AgShows NSW of the date of their Zone Final. On receipt of the above notification, a Zone Host will have **6 weeks** to accept or not accept the advised date of their Zone Final. Please note that the advised date must be approved by both Group Secretaries for the Zone prior to confirmation to AgShows NSW. Acceptance or non-acceptance of this date is to be put in writing to the AgShows NSW Coordinator. Should no written documentation be received it will be taken as given that the advised date is agreeable with the Show Society Zone Host, and this will become the published date for their Zone Final. This date will only be changed in extreme circumstances and a request for a change will be required in writing to AgShows NSW.

Zone Final Dates: Zone Finals are conducted over six weeks. These six weeks are between (and including) the fourth and ninth week prior to ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Presentation that is held on the first weekend of the Sydney Royal Easter Show. All Zone Final Presentations are to be held on a Saturday evening. See "Zone Final Dates for 2027" that is included within this document.

Nomination of a Zone Final Date: A Show Society's preferred date for the hosting of a Zone Final is to be nominated on the application form together with two other acceptable dates. All Show Societies are to confer with their two AgShows NSW Group Delegates/Directors who will in turn ascertain from other Show Societies within their Zone that the requested date is suitable to all.

Accommodation & Presentation Venue: Ensure that the town at which the Zone Final is to be held has adequate accommodation and transportation for guests or that a nearby town can provide these services as attendance at Zone Finals can vary from 150 to 200+ guests. It is suggested that you contact the host of your Zone's previous Final to ascertain the number of guests they had. It is also a very good idea to check that no other large event is happening on the same weekend that a Show Society proposes for its Zone Final – maybe contact a few motels and function venues and ask what their availability is like on your nominated dates. It is never too early to book accommodation and a function room, so the best idea is to place tentative bookings as soon as you are advised that your Show Society has been successful in their application.

Zone Final Coordinator: Should the proposed Zone Final Coordinator change from the person nominated on the application form, please advise the AgShows NSW Coordinator as soon as possible. The full name, address and contact telephone numbers of the new Coordinator will be required.

12 MONTHS PRIOR

It is never too early to start organising an event. What you prepare and organise well in advance will save the Zone Final Coordinator many hours of work when the time draws nearer. A Zone Final is not difficult to run, you just need to be organised.

Budget: Zone Finals do cost money to host, however a Show Society can cover all their costs and, in some instances, even come out with a profit. It is very important to draw up a budget right from the start. Look closely at all your costs and leave nothing out. When you have finished adding a 10% contingency – there will always be expenses that you were not expecting. Examples of a few costs that may or may not be applicable to your budget include:

- Venue hire
- Accommodation for judges
- Transportation
- Entertainment/background music
- Telephone
- Postage
- Gifts – Finalists and Judges
- Catering
- Wait staff
- Hire of equipment – e.g., audio equipment (microphone etc.), tables & chairs, decorations, display panels, stage etc.
- Meals for judges and invited guests including outgoing Zone Finalist
- Meals for entrants including judging lunch and Presentation Dinner
- Travel and accommodation costs and dinner for the reigning "Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman"
- Printing and photocopying
- Cleaning

Please note that the above are suggestions only of some of the expenses that may be incurred and that there may be other costs that are applicable to your circumstances.

Sponsors: Start speaking with potential local sponsors early. The hotel/motel where most of your guests will be booked into is always a good place to start – some are more than willing to give you an extremely good price if it means guaranteed occupancy. Other suggested sponsors may include the local Council, businesses that will benefit from the event such as hairdressers, florists and the venue where the Presentation is to be held, local businesses etc. You can never have too many sponsors. They are very important to the event's success, so you need to look after them and give them as much media coverage and publicity as possible all the way leading up to and during your Zone Final. Please ensure that sponsors are acceptable to both AgShows NSW and RAS.

Venue: Book the venue for the Presentation evening at least 12 months in advance. As mentioned above, you should place a tentative booking with the venue as soon as you have been advised of your Show Society's success as a Zone Host. Make sure that the venue is to the standard you require and that it can provide everything that you may want e.g., stage, dance floor, a pre-dinner drinks area if required, microphone etc.

Take the average of the number of guests from your last 3 Zone Finals as a basis for the minimum seating capacity you will require. Also have a look at the menus and associated prices. It may be that they are too expensive or not to your standard and you need to find somewhere else. If possible, put down a holding deposit to ensure that you have secured the room. It has been known for some venues to give the room away to another party who is going to spend more money with them. Some venues will not charge you for room hire depending on how much you are going to spend on food and beverage. If they

do want to charge you for room hire, there is no harm in asking them to waive this cost due to the amount of food and beverages.

Accommodation: Book accommodation at a suitable motel/s for entrants, judges etc. The cut-off date for confirmation of bookings should be advised to the entrants and their Show Societies. Try to have a few choices so there is a difference in price range. As with the venue, you may be able to get a very good rate because of the quantity of rooms you book. This is especially true if there are several accommodation facilities in the area that all compete for business. Also ask if they have a suitable room in which to conduct interviews and to hold a judging lunch; however, this can be conducted elsewhere if desired. It may also be advisable to have a list of other local accommodation that can be sent to Show Societies etc. if required.

6 MONTHS PRIOR

MC/Compere: Organise an MC/Compere for the evening. This may be someone you already know, or you may like to invite a media personality from a local radio station etc. It is essential they have a good understanding of the history, aims and the guidelines of the competition. Organise this as early as possible to ensure your desired MC/Compere can commit around other responsibilities and to be able to advertise their attendance at the event.

Entertainment: It is at the discretion of the Zone Host as to whether to provide entertainment for the Presentation evening or not. Sometimes the venue can assist with in-house entertainers or recommend entertainment that may be appropriate for your event.

Printing: Start thinking about your printing requirements. You may need to consider invitation cards, dinner entrée cards, a presentation program and even table place cards and menu depending on how detailed you want to be. If you have access to a printer, you may be able to do the printing yourself. If not, you may like to start requesting quotes or pursuing local printing businesses for sponsorship. Please note that the Competition is to be referred to as **ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition** on all printed materials.

Judging Lunch & Interview Location: If you have not already organised a suitable interview location and judging lunch venue, now is the time to do it. As mentioned above, the motel where the entrants are staying will often have suitable facilities. If not, an alternative location needs to be booked. Ensure that there is an area outside the interview room where the entrants can congregate whilst waiting their turn.

Judges: The AgShows NSW Coordinator will advise you of who your judges are going to be and will also provide you with their contact details. AgShows NSW will also advise you which Judge will be the Officiate and who will announce the winner/s. Contact each of the judges and introduce yourself. You will need to find out what their accommodation requirements will be so that you can plan e.g., if they are bringing somebody, how many nights they will require to stay. You may also like to ask if they have special dietary requirements and if they will require transport when they arrive. The Zone Host pays for the accommodation for the judges for a maximum of 2 nights and for their meal at the Presentation Dinner. All other costs are to be paid for by the Judges. It is at the discretion of the Show Society concerned whether breakfast is to be included.

3 MONTHS PRIOR

During this busy time, it is important to keep track of what has been completed, what requires follow-up and prioritise your remaining tasks. Write out a list of exactly what still needs to be done and when you want to have each task finished by. Be aware of public holidays and changed operating hours of businesses around the Christmas/New Year period, and factor in additional time accordingly.

Entrants: Begin collating and follow up any outstanding Form B's; these forms set out Entrant Details and a photograph of each of the entrants from the participating Show Societies and are essential for planning your Zone Finals. If you are unsure as to which Show Societies are going to put forward an entrant, phone one of the four Group Directors in your Zone and ask them for assistance. Alternatively, you can contact the AgShows NSW Coordinator who may also be able to assist. In return for the information supplied by the entrants, you will need to advise them of accommodation details and provide a copy of the judging timetable and the day's proceedings including where to meet etc. It is sometimes useful to also provide a map of your town that highlights the places that they will need to find. In addition, ensure that each entrants dietary requirements and emergency contact details are complete and accessible during judging and Presentation, plus any additional functions they may attend.

Program: Once you have received all the necessary documentation from the entrants you can have a program printed. Be aware that Show Society information may be supplied relatively close to the Zone Final as some Show Societies will not have judged their entrants. In this case have everything ready to go as soon as you receive the last entry. It is a matter of preference as to whether a Zone includes a photograph and a brief synopsis on each of the entrants as part of their Presentation Program. However, if you have the time, it is extremely helpful for guests to be able to follow along with the evening and acts as a souvenir. Other information that may be suitable for the program includes an introductory welcome (from your President, for example), a timetable for the evening's activities, a list of the judges, MC/compere and special guests and others who you would like to thank. It is also important to give promotion, in the form of verbal recognition during speeches, signage opportunities at the Final, and/or feature business names or logo on the program.

Judges Information: A timetable needs to be sent to each of the Judges for the day's proceedings. The timetable should include the interview time for each entrant, the judging lunch, and the time for the evening presentation. Each entrant's Form B and photo as well as the judging guidelines need to be sent out in plenty of time to give the Judges time to study the information. As none of the above can be carried out until you have all the necessary documentation from the entrants it is suggested that you don't leave it too late to start chasing Show Society Coordinators for photographs and Form B's.

Timetable: When planning the judging timetable look at the number of entrants you have. Obviously, the more entrants on the day the earlier you will need to start. Allow 15 minutes for the judging interview and 5 minutes for the discussion on each of the candidates. Also try to schedule the entrants so that the closer the entrant lives to your town the earlier their interview is. This will allow those who need to travel a greater distance the whole morning to get there.

Outgoing Winner Responsibilities: The outgoing State Finalists for your Zone should be invited to attend the Zone final well in advance. You may also like to invite her to sash the new State finalist/s; however, this is not mandatory. It is also a great opportunity to get her involved with the Zone Final by having her act as a hostess during the interview process and quite often she will be able to give a lot of good advice to the entrants and settle their nerves. Please note that her meal at the Presentation Dinner should be paid for by the Zone Host. Show Societies are not required to pay for partners' dinners.

Guest Speakers: Guest speakers such as AgShows NSW Directors, Shire President, and Local Members of Parliament etc. should be organised a few months prior to the event to ensure their availability and to give them time to prepare a speech.

A representative from the ASC of NSW Next Generation will contact you to speak briefly during the evening. Please allow them the opportunity to speak. The ASC of NSW Next Generation is the youthful extension of AgShows NSW, dedicated to facilitating the engagement of youth for the positive progression of NSW Agricultural Shows.

It is recommended that you make a run sheet available to your speakers that outlines who is speaking, approximate time and duration, and topline information on the competition such as a few sentences on the competition values, how many entrants received and any sponsors that should be mentioned. This run sheet can also be a useful guide to caterers to ensure their service has minimal interruptions to your event.

Sashes: The sashes for the winning entrant/s will be provided by AgShows NSW. The quantity you receive will be dependent on the number of entrants your Zone has and the subsequent number of Finalists that you will be able to nominate for the State Final. Any queries regarding Zone Final sashes should be directed to the AgShows NSW Coordinator.

Invitations & Dinner Passes: Send out formal invitations for the Presentation Dinner well in advance – approximately 6 weeks. Invited guests who should receive complimentary dinner passes include:

- Entrants
- Judges and Partners
- Reigning "ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman"
- The previous year Zone Finalists
- MC/Compere (if a special guest)
- ACCIONA Representatives (x2)

An invitation to attend should also be sent to the following guests who pay for their own tickets:

- AgShows NSW President & Partner
- AgShows NSW Coordinator
- AgShows NSW Vice Presidents & Partners
- Two Group Presidents of the Zone & Partners
- Shire President/Mayor & Partner
- Four Group Delegates (Local AgShows NSW Directors) who make up your Zone & Partners
- Honorary Group Members & Partners
- All Show Societies in your Zone
- RAS of NSW

Tickets for the Presentation Dinner should include the time of the dinner e.g., 7.00pm for 7.30pm and the dress code. Please note that dress codes do apply for all Zone Finals and that the *minimum* dress code for the Presentation Dinner is a lounge suit.

If a Zone Final would like to have a black-tie dress code, then this is completely optional. However, please ensure that whatever you choose, it is stipulated on the dinner ticket and communicated to all guests and speakers present.

Catering: Confirm catering requirements with the venue/caterers – it is important to pass on any dietary requirements of entrants, Judges, special guests etc. in advance. Ask when they will require final catering numbers (this is usually at least 3 working days prior to the event) and at this time also give them a copy of the evening's program/run sheet and go through the event with them. If allergies/special dietary requirements, you may need to share the seating plan also. You will also need to advise the caterers if you want the wait staff to stop serving and clearing plates during speeches or maybe just to provide drink service during this time. You may also have arranged

for table centers, which you will need to advise the caterer of. Note that some venues/caterers will require a substantial deposit well before the event.

Regarding the judging lunch, a suitable menu needs to be decided on that will give the judges the opportunity to judge social interaction. All entrants are to be seated for lunch (i.e., not stand-up finger food) and are to eat together.

Entertainment: If you are having entertainment in the evening, confirm all details with them. This includes:

- A copy of the program for the evening
- Any special music you would like them to play
- Stage area and power supply
- What time they can have access for setting up
- If pre-dinner music is to be playing on guest arrival and if so what sort
- The maximum volume that you would like for the music
- Meal arrangements

Accommodation: Confirm all accommodation requirements with the motel/s and advise names of guests. Also ensure that all Zone Finalists and their Show Societies are informed of accommodation details so that they can organise their bookings.

MC/Compere: Send a copy of the evening program to the MC/Compere and a copy of the entrant's information details if he/she will be introducing the girls. This will give them time to formulate appropriate questions for each of the entrants that pertain to their background. Please note that an on-stage interview is required at all Zone Finals as it forms part of the judging process. It is desirable that the MC/Compere speaks to each entrant before the evening function to discuss the night's procedure and the type of questions to be asked. This will help calm any nerves prior to this onstage interview. Also make sure that the Compere has a list of both your Zone Final sponsors and the State Final sponsors (representatives of which will be on the judging panel) so that he/she can make mention of them during the evening.

Gifts: Arrange gifts to be presented on the night. Including a small token of appreciation for the Judges. Also arrange for a person to present the gifts to each recipient.

Decorations: The decoration of the venue is up to each individual Zone and dependent on your budget. Your sponsors and community groups/schools may be able to help you with this and they may also have a banner etc. that they would like you to display on the night. Have these items together prior to the day so that you can work out the best location and the materials you will require to put them up.

ZONE FINAL DAY

If you have been well organised and prepared everything in advance over the past months, the day of the Zone Final should run very smoothly and hopefully without too much stress. One of the most important things to do to ensure things run smoothly is to have a detailed list of what needs to be done during the day. Try to put an approximate time next to each item so that you are not trying to do everything at once and hopefully you may also be able to put a person's name next to some of the items if you have been able to delegate some of the jobs.

- Ensure that the interview room is set up. Provide tea/coffee, water, paper and pens etc. Have a copy of the judging criteria and schedule of the day available.

- Check with the Judges if they have everything, they need and confirm that the AgShows NSW representative on the judging panel will take the role of Chief Judge. This person will be responsible for keeping the judging on time and collating the scores. Ensure that each entrant is aware that they must attend the interview, the judging lunch and evening presentation, as they will be judged on each occasion. Failure to attend any one of the above will result in zero points for that judging criterion.

- Name tags for the entrants assists Judges especially in larger zones.

Start on time and try to keep to the schedule during the day. Remind the Judges that they must give each entrant the same amount of time for interviews – shortcuts are not to be taken. Sharing the day's schedule ahead of time, and printing the schedule for Judges on the day, will assist with this.

- Each entrant should be taken into the interview room and introduced to each of the Judges. As mentioned above, the outgoing winner would be ideal for this.

- No other person is to be in the room during interviews – this includes photographers and the recording of videos.

- The Judging Lunch is recommended to be a sit-down meal with all entrants and judges eating together.

- Prior to the evening function it is advisable for the entrants to be given the opportunity to meet the MC/Compere – maybe invite him/her to the judging lunch. This will settle their nerves when they step up to the microphone and will also give the MC/Compere a chance to find out more about each entrant prior to their on-stage interview.

- Provide an envelope for the Chief Judge into which the winner/s name is to be placed once judging has concluded in the evening.

Dinner venue to be set up – decorations, table centers (if any), program, stage, microphone, dance floor, table for gifts and sashes, welcome desk (also for pick-up of tickets), tables and chairs (if hired in) etc. Try to get some volunteer helpers to assist you with the set-up as it may take some time to arrange, and more than one person will probably be required. Often the Zone Host organises a raffle to be drawn during the evening.

ZONE FINAL EVENING PRESENTATION

- It is up to the individual Zone as to whether pre-dinner drinks will be served, however this is the perfect opportunity for the entrants to mingle with guests. Please note that at no time during the evening are entrants to be asked to serve either food or beverages to guests.

- Ensure that the Judges, and any media representatives, are in good view of the stage area from their table, as they will be judging the girls on a variety of aspects whilst they are standing at the microphone.

- Where possible, introduce any media representatives to your Show Society representatives, entrants, MC and special guests. It is also a good idea to ensure any media present can contact you after the event should they have any follow-up questions.

- Have a jug of water and two glasses available near the microphone for use by the MC/Compere.

- Try not to have the announcement of the Finalist too late in the evening as some guests will have a long way to travel home and may want to leave directly following the presentation.

- Organise with either the Chief Judge or another person to take the winning envelope up to the stage. An AgShows NSW Executive will announce the winner.

- Make mention of the sponsors during the evening – this should be included in the MC/Compere's notes.

POST-ZONE FINAL

- The name/s and address/es of the winning Zone Finalist/s is to be sent to the AgShows NSW Coordinator immediately following the Zone Final. If you are unable to email the information, then please phone through on the Monday following the Presentation.

- Ensure the winning Zone finalist/s Form B is emailed to the RAS Coordinator immediately at pcape@rasnsw.com.au following your Zone Final.

- Please ensure that the Finalist/s representing your Zone is aware that she will need to supply a one-page resume and a digital portrait photograph emailed to the RAS Coordinator immediately at pcape@rasnsw.com.au
  The RAS Coordinator will send an itinerary for the State Final, including dress code and accommodation details to each of the Finalists soon after the last Zone Final has been held.