

Yarn Circle # 7 – Andrea Roth

Running the Big Show - The Challenges and Success of Scale

Both large and small shows face the same challenges, just on a different scale.

Volunteers: Changes in demographics within the community can be beneficial when circumstances are favourable.

Younger volunteers are often time poor, with 2 income families and children participating in multiple sporting disciplines leaving little time to volunteer outside of the actual show time.

Training and changing requirements can sometimes lead to frustrations, but overcoming these frustrations leads to successful outcomes.

Important to assist new volunteers and provide on-going support so they don't feel like they have been thrown in the deep end.

Secretaries- lots of responsibility and expectation that they will do everything!

Grants: Grants are hard to obtain and require significant time investment.

Local government members are not always lobbying for the Ag shows.

Compliance: There are more requirements taking up lots of time

Constantly changing compliance issues leads to frustration from volunteers show members.

Compliance can appear onerous and daunting

Security: User-paid security & police measures, such as those used in rodeos, are necessary to ensure safety at our events. These come at a cost, with larger shows expected to take on additional measures despite have low incident reports.

Entry Fees: There are complaints from attendees who expect shows to be free, yet the same people will happily pay substantial amounts for a concert.

We are exploring ways to address these concerns such as advertising the lists of free things to do at shows.

Promoting: We are using school competitions to encourage attendance and promote our events.

For multi day shows – encouraging school and nursing homes to attend at a discounted rate.

Equipment Hire: There are not enough facilities to stage events, so we are hiring equipment as needed to ensure successful shows.

Insurance: The cost of insurance is significant

Committee: Encouraging committee members to actively participate and fulfill their roles is essential for the success of our shows.

Frustrating when members commit to a task, then fail to fulfill it, leaving to for other committee members or most often the secretary.

Setting clear section requirements and deadlines is essential

Showground Availability and Maintenance: can be an issue for shows who do not own/manage their showground.

Essential to work with the showground manager to ensure readiness for show.