PRESS RELEASE

2015, what a year for the Showground!

The Dorrigo Showground Trust is pleased and proud to report another extremely successful year for the Dorrigo Showground.

With such a large infrastructure to maintain, the Trust gratefully acknowledges the significant contributions of a number of community organisations. Particular thanks are due to the Silver Spurs for their continuing improvements to yards and to the Show Society, Show Ladies Auxiliary, Beautizone Jersey Club, Pony Club and Bluegrass for smaller jobs, repairs and maintenance and for the use of volunteer’s time and equipment to improve the grounds on many occasions.

The Trust itself, was again extremely appreciative of the services of John Newstead who has worked tirelessly, 2 days per week, on maintenance and improvements on the grounds. In 2015 he, essentially, completed the outside painting of all buildings, including the old caretaker’s cottage.

The Trust also completed the upgrade of the Luncheon Pavilion installing a compliant grease trap and completing the entire project by refurbishing the floor, exposing the true beauty of local Tallowwood timber laid approximately 80 years ago. Bellingen tradesman Tan Allman, made a significant donation of his time to subsidise the floor sanding and finishing. The Trust acknowledges and thanks the Bellingen Shire Local Heritage Fund (BSCLHF) who also provided grant funds for the heritage portions in this project. Appreciated grant funds were secured from the Cork Trust and the Community Building Partnership Program (CBPP) in 2013/14 which initiated this major improvement to community infrastructure.

An $18000 PRMF grant enabled the rewiring and upgrade of power and lighting and power boards in the Main Pavilion and associated booths in 2015. This was a massive job with the removal of old wiring and rusted fittings and was undertaken with the services of local electricians. Included in this project was the installation of flood lights, and power saving LED lighting throughout these buildings and the installation of numerous electrical outlets which were necessary for major events.

At the end of the year, additional grants were secured from BSCLHF ($2000) and Environmental Levy ($5000) as well as a $33000 grant from State Government CBPP. These grants will see continuing improvements being undertaken on dust and bird problems in the main pavilion, solar hot water with gas boosters and provision of extra amenities in ablution blocks, respectively.