

CHAR TREK





































Building the Future

Char Trek 2026 was an outstanding success and built on the strong foundation of prior Charolais youth events. Seventy-two Charolais youth from four states took the opportunity to add skills to their toolkit, expand their network and evaluate new ideas.



Chris Knox presents Sharnie Franco, Mowbray Park NSW, with the award for Grand Champion Herdsperson.



Overjudge Scott Freeman presents Paige Brown, Wingham NSW, the award for Grand Champion Junior Judge.



Caylee Edwards, Denman NSW, was awarded Grand Champion Parader by judge Mr Marty Rowlands.



Chris Knox on behalf of the Price Family, Moongool Charolais, Yuleba Queensland hands over the leads for Moongool Miss W88E (P) to Most Potential Charolais Breeder, Paige Brown, Wingham NSW.

Char Trek 2026 saw an extended time format with participants arriving Thursday and departing Sunday. The extra time afforded an increase in lecture time and more time with their cattle for the participants. Toowoomba's great facilities allowed many of the educational and judging events to be undercover, which was appreciated by all. Our Charolais youth committee had put the hard yards in early to ensure arrival and setup went smoothly. Many hands made light work and in a fast time all entrants were registered and attending the induction session.

Straight after induction, the competitors split into six assigned groups and team bonding activities commenced. It is rewarding to see older competitors step up and assist the younger attendees participate and enjoy the experience. After some very competitive activities the water slides came out and some hidden talents were discovered. Sliding ability varied greatly but the participation efforts were gold medal standard.

The facilities at Toowoomba were first class and enabled many education sessions to be undertaken undercover. A large number of members and parents took on leadership roles, either group leaders, educators, assistants and so much more. We are indebted to each and every one of these people for their contribution.

Char Trek 2026 saw the introduction of "Little Chars", a new age group for competitors five to seven years old. Each entrant received a blow-up cow about 50cm high and these were used for washing and bed maintenance sessions. Nigel and Casey Wieck were group leaders of this section and did a tremendous job.

Little Chars concluded after lunch each day however the entrants kept working with their animal making perfect beds and establishing great networks amongst themselves. This section proved to be very popular and gave the younger members a taste of youth events.

Charolais youth events have a strong focus on education and the program was designed to cover essential fundamentals like animal evaluation, parading, and gear with new opportunities. A big hit with entrants (and a few parents) was Gary Noller and his drone demonstration. Gary had his large drone set up for spraying and outlined the applications it could be used for and gave a demonstration of the accuracy that could be achieved.

With the younger sections such as the Pee Wees (8-10) and juniors (11-12) there is more focus on fundamentals of cattle production and management. As the age increases more variation enters the program. For example, senior competitors journeyed to Beef City feedlot and took in animal feeding techniques and nutrition. Some of our lecturers included Janine Lau on MSA grading and carcase attributes and grading, Dr Marnie Schiewe and Dr Jemma Postle on animal reproduction and animal health. Gemma and Ben Noller discussed marketing, Kelly Skillington lead sessions on public speaking along with many other contributors. An important note is that many of our educational lecturers were once participants at Charolais youth events in the past. This really puts a value on these events to the society and industry as a whole. For the first time, we had Charolais fourth generation family participation with the Noller children.



Pee Wee Reserve Champion Parader,Jaxon Dodson, Banana Qld with Pee Wee Champion Parader, Emmett Skillington, Dalveen Qld.

Pee Wee Paraders (8 - 10)
Sponsored by Fine Design Charolais

Heat 1
1st Jaxon Dodson
2nd Clay Hamilton
3rd Mac Goodland
4th Will Holden
5th Morgan Fay

Heat 2
1st Emmett Skillington
2nd Lachlan Gardner
3rd Dawson Dodson
4th Charlie Noller



Junior Champion Parader,Jack Postle, Dalby Qld with Pee Wee Reserve Champion Parader, Fletcher Skillington, Dalveen Qld.

Junior Paraders (11-13)
Sponsored by Virbac Animal Health

Heat 1
1st Fletcher Skillington
2nd Indiah Goodland
3rd Kate Lau Sticklen
4th Hannah Elsden
5th Zoe Turner
HC Makayla Loorents

Heat 2
1st Robert Nuttridge
2nd Angus Fay
3rd Felicity Brown
4th Mac Surawski
5th Charli Telford Meek
HC Millie Cooper

Heat 3
1st Lola Holland
2nd Ziara Swanson
3rd Adisyn Dodson
4th Avery Jones
5th Tai Hamilton
HC Bailey McGinn

Heat 4
1st Jack Postle
2nd Darcy Skillington
3rd Poppy Cooper
4th Halle Goodland
5th Reid Surawski



Intermediate Champion Parader, Keira Campagnola, Myponga SA, with Intermediate Reserve Champion Parader, Byron Perrett, Inverell NSW.

Intermediate Paraders (14-16)
Spons. by McGregor Gourlay Agricultural Services

Heat 1
1st Byron Perrett
2nd Savannah Warburton Gill
3rd Sophie Johnson
4th Emily Gerchow
5th Mischa Molini

Heat 2
1st Keira Campagnola
2nd Marlee Pianta
3rd Hugh Fay
4th Summer Kelly
5th Molly Bright

Heat 3
1st Olivia Franco
2nd Mia Mackay
3rd Imogen Blandford
4th Maxwell Pengelly
5th Kane Philp



Senior Champion Parader, Caylee Edwards, Denman NSW, with Senior Reserve Champion Parader, Ashley Smith, Carrowbrook NSW.

Senior Paraders (17-25)
Sponsored by Palgrove Charolais

Heat 1
1st Paige Brown
2nd Jaime Vosper
3rd Phoebe McMillan
4th Maggie Burling
5th Sophie Inder

Heat 2
1st Caylee Edwards
2nd Gabriella Stokes
3rd Steph Hartwig
4th Bella Johnstone
5th Katie Sutcliffe

Heat 3
1st Ashley Smith
2nd Katelyn Golinski
3rd Sharnie Franco
4th Lucy Selby
5th Teagan Neutze

The education program for these events are constantly evolving to cater for new entrants as well as more seasoned attendees. Repetition is a great way to take on topics like structure and animal evaluation and each lecturer in these subjects brings a new perspective to the discussion.

The overjudge for the Junior judging competition is always our lecturer on structure and this year's Scott Freeman had this task. Scott is well known to the Charolais breed after many years with the family Baroola Charolais herd at Roma and now with the Brendale herd. Every competitor competes in junior judging and judges two classes, writes reasons down for placements and talks on a class. Giving entrants self confidence in public speaking is a huge takeaway from these events. The full results of the junior judging section are on the next page.

Paige Brown took out Champion judge this year capping a great show for her. Paige also won the heifer, Moongool Ms W8E (P) donated by the Price family for the Most Potential Charolais Breeder, giving her own herd a massive boost. Paige is the granddaughter of Kel and Lesley Bridges who have been huge supporters of Charolais youth and the breed over many, many years. This award saw fourteen entrants entering a written application for the heifer. Entrants also had a personal interview.

Two scholarships were awarded to the Roma Young Beef Leaders event later in the year with Jaime Vosper and Sophie Inder to represent Charolais youth at this event.

Martin Rowlands, KBV Simmentals judged the parading section and gave clear commentary on his expectations and decisions. Caylee Edwards from Denman NSW won the senior and grand champion parader in a strongly contested division. Kiera Campagnola from South Australia won the Intermediate section and Emmet Skillington won the Pee Wee section. In the junior division, Jack Postle, Dalby won the Champion parader, the same title his father, Andrew Postle won at Dubbo back in 1993 at the first Charolais youth stampede. Marty was eased into the judging with the Little Chars parading their animals in a great start to the final day.

A cohort of judges kept an eye on all competitors during the event and these results were tabled into the herdsperson awards. Points were awarded for attention, cooperation, participation, manners and overall effort. Sharnie Franco was announced as grand champion Herdsperson at the awards ceremony after winning the senior section.

Another new section for our event was an Arts and Photography section which attracted some great exhibits. Tai Hamilton, Tamworth NSW took out the Artwork section with an amazing painting and Caylee Edwards exhibited the Grand champion photograph.

A mock auction conducted by Elders Studstock consultant, Andrew Meara was hugely successful. Each team had different specifications and budgets and bidding was fierce. New breed records would have been set if this was a real auction and the youth enjoyed working out what bulls on offer suited their specifications.



Caylee Edwards, Denman NSW, Grand Champion Parader.

The youth committee extend a huge shout out to all the sponsors and contributors to the Charolais youth auction last August that generated the funds to underwrite this event. Entrant fees were kept to a minimum due to the support of the sponsors and auctions participants. Watch your news feed for information on this year's event. Our Charolais youth committee did a great job with the organisation of this event and with the assistance of many more mature helpers delivered a strong educational event. Many new friendships were formed with entrants from a wide geographical distribution. A good thing with the Charolais event is that everybody has the chance to meet everybody with all cattle stalled in one shed.

Planning is well underway for the 2027 event and the goal is always to improve. Event dates and location will be advised to members once set.

When we evaluate the contribution of Charolais youth stampede attendees from the 1990's into this year's event, it is self evident on the value of these events. Enabling our Charolais youth with skills now, gives the breed a solid base to step forward for many years to come with confidence. ***Let's continue to build the future!***

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Overjudge Scott Freeman presented the Little Chars Judging awards sponsored by Ascot Charolais. Champion: Everly Noller, Reserve Champion: Mason Scheurle, 3rd: Jackson Rauchle, 4th: Lacey McGinn, 5th: Sophie Postle, Highly Commended: Ted Noller & William Gardner.



Overjudge Scott Freeman presented the Pee Wee Judging awards sponsored by Fine Design Charolais. Champion: Jaxon Dodson, Reserve Champion: Morgan Fay, 3rd: Lachlan Gardner, 4th: Mac Goodland, 5th: Clay Hamilton,with sponsor Luke Hamilton.



Overjudge Scott Freeman presented the Junior Judging awards sponsored by Virbac Australia. Champion: Indiah Goodland, Reserve Champion: Jack Postle, 3rd: Angus Fay, 4th: Halle Goodland, 5th: Kate Lau Sticklen, with Matt Falconer, Virbac Australia.



Overjudge Scott Freeman presented the Intermediate Judging awards sponsored by McGregor Gourlay Agricultural Services. Champion: Byron Perrett, Reserve Champion: Summer Kelly, 3rd: Savannah Warburton Gill, 4th: Marlee Pianta, 5th: Keira Campagnola,with sponsor Melissa Brown.



Overjudge Scott Freeman presented the Senior Judging awards sponsored by Palgrove Charolais. Champion: Paige Brown, Reserve Champion: Jaime Vosper, 3rd: Bella Johnstone, 4th: Gabbi Stokes, 5th: Phoebe McMillan, with Gemma Noller, Palgrove Charolais.



Chris Knox, DSK Charolais presents Tai Hamilton with the Grand Champion Artwork award.



Caylie Edwards with her prizes for Grand Champion Photography at Char Trek sponsored by Ruby Canning, Mavstar Photography,

Little Char Artwork (5 - 7)

1st Ted Noller
2nd Jackson Rauchle

Pee Wee Artwork (8 - 10)

1st Clay Hamilton
2nd Morgan Fay
3rd Charlie Noller

Junior Artwork (11 - 13)

1st Tai Hamilton
2nd Angus Fay

Junior Photography (11 - 13)

1st Felicity Brown
2nd Kate Lau Sticklen

Intermediate Photography (14 - 16)

1st Mia Mackay
2nd Olivia Franco

Senior Photography (17 -25)

1st Caylie Edwards
2nd Ashley Smith
3rd Gabby Stokes



Gary Noller, Gunnadoo Charolais presented the Little Chars Herdsperson awards sponsored by Ascot Charolais. Champion: Sophie Postle, Reserve Champion: William Gardner, 3rd: Ted Noller, 4th: Mason Scheurle, 5th: Everly Noller.



Matt Falconer, Virbac Australia presented the Pee Wee Herdsperson awards sponsored by Fine Design Charolais. Champion: Clay Hamilton, Reserve Champion: Emmett Skillington, 3rd: Lachlan Gardner, 4th: Jaxon Dodson, 5th: Mac Goodland.



Luke Hamilton, Fine Design Charolais presented the Junior Herdsperson awards sponsored by Virbac Australia. Champion: Lola Holland, Reserve Champion: Fletcher Skillington, 3rd: Darcy Skillington, 4th: Indiah Goodland, 5th: Felicity Brown.



Melissa Brown presented the Intermediate Herdsperson awards sponsored by McGregor Gourlay Agricultural Services. Champion: Byron Perrett, Reserve Champion: Keira Campagnola, 3rd: Mia Mackay, 4th: Marlee Pianta, 5th: Hugh Fay.



Gemma Noller presented the Senior Herdsperson awards sponsored by Palgrove Charolais. Champion: Sharnie Franco, Reserve Champion: Jaime Vosper, 3rd: Sophie Inder, 4th: Gabbi Stokes, 5th: Caylee Edwards.



Sophie Inder and Jaime Vosper were awarded a schoalrship to attend the Young Beef Producers event at Roma in 2026.



Ross Sticklen, Lilydale Charolais presented Millie Cooper with Most Improved Award sponsored by Lilydale Charolais.



Clare Charolais sponsored Encouragement Awards in each division, Natalie Goodland presented Little Chars: Jackson Rauchle & Everly Noller, Pee Wees: Charlie Noller, Dawson Dodson, Will Holden & Morgan Fay with their awards.



Clare Charolais sponsored Encouragement Awards in each division, Natalie Goodland presented Juniors: Tai Hamilton & Charli Telford Meek, Intermediates: Summer Kelly & Matthew Price, Seniors: Oscar Cass & Teagan Neutze with their awards.