

# Glen Innes gourmet fiesta



Belinda Jeffrey



**EVERY FEBRUARY** in the picturesque, green, shady grounds of the Glen Innes Show, a dedicated team of around 50 committee members (and their loyal helpers) band together to create a truly unique and enjoyable event. Local agricultural shows are an important part of the calendar for rural communities, becoming part of the essence of a country town and its surrounding district. This show offers the locals the opportunity to show off skills and hospitality as well as their pride in local produce and the region. The 2017 Glen Innes Show will be held on Friday, 17 and Saturday, 18 February.

The Gourmet Fiesta is a celebration of local food, wine and lifestyle and is an important part of the show's program. Each year the Gourmet Fiesta team work towards attracting visitors to the region to showcase amazing local produce and educate both visitors and locals on the ways to enjoy the seasonal bounties on offer. The Fiesta is about educating as well as enriching the experience for all, whether living in or visiting the Glen Innes highlands.

The word is spreading about the life this marquee brings to the show and there will be added spark in 2017 with chef-in-residence, Belinda Jeffrey. Belinda is an award-winning author who has recently completed her seventh book. She has also worked as a cook, TV food presenter, freelance writer, restaurant reviewer and cooking teacher. She creates recipes that work every time, to produce something you genuinely enjoy eating. Belinda will give cooking demonstrations with tastings from 2pm on each day of the show.

Lovers of food and all things related will be drawn to the white sails of the marquee nestled under the majestic branches of the shade trees. Wander through to taste and purchase goods from around 25 food, beverage and lifestyle

stalls. Guests can choose from crisp boutique cider, creamy goat's cheese, a tangy preserve or a book to enjoy in a quiet corner when relaxing at the end of a busy day at the show. The stall holders are passionate producers who care about their products and how they market and present their wares. Each product has a wonderful tale of its journey to the marquee and each producer has the opportunity to tell this story at the Producer Forum from 11am on Saturday.

The Fiesta marquee is located in the food quarter of the grounds, and the cooking demonstration area flows seamlessly into the Ladies Auxiliary Tea Rooms. Delicious cakes, slices and sandwiches, made with love and served by volunteers from many local charities can be purchased and enjoyed while watching the Producer Forum or Belinda's cooking demonstrations. The Gourmet Fiesta team offer a succulent gourmet wagyu burger, straight from the barbeque served with a home-made relish on a fresh local bun. Beverages, from tea and coffee to wine and boutique beer, can be selected to accompany your lunch. As night falls and day-weary show goers are looking to rest their legs, communal tables are set up to allow them to enjoy the cook-your-own steaks and delicious salads from the Ladies Auxiliary and the fun and lively interaction continues into the night. An extensive nightly entertainment program with fireworks can be enjoyed after dinner.

If you are wanting to experience a traditional, friendly country show with an inspirational, forward-thinking perspective, a visit to Glen Innes this February is a must. The Gourmet Fiesta team are always looking for new regional artisan producers who would like to promote their wares and be part of the festival fun!

For further information visit the Glen Innes Show Society website or Facebook page.