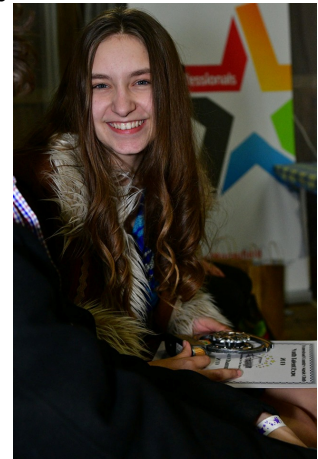


Homestead Youth Talent Expo 2019

A very big congratulations to all the Homestead members who contributed to making the 13th annual Homestead Youth Talent Expo such a great success. Numbers were up this year with over 100 individual performances on the day. Initial survey feedback from the competitors and families involved is extremely positive. Several families commented in favour of our committee's early decision to cancel the 'optional' Anything But Country section to ensure that we finished at a reasonable hour – and we did!

The performance standard at both juvenile and junior level was again outstanding. The junior and overall winner this year was **Felicity Kircher**, a 14 year old from the Redlands Modern Country Music Club. Felicity has been a regular at the Expo for some time and is highly deserving of our top honour. I have already spoken to one of the organisers of Tamworth's Academy of Country Music and they were thrilled that Felicity will be attending their junior course in 2020.



The juvenile winner, and also overall runner up, was a rising young star from the Bundaberg CMC, **Keely Sliwka**. Keely is another who we have seen at the Expo many times and she is one to watch for the future. Keely's prizes include a Vox acoustic amplifier supplied by Yamaha Music Australia and a songwriting/recording session with Liam Kennedy-Clark and Luke Marriott. Congratulations to these two talented performers as well as the many other competitors who can all be so proud of their performances on the day.

The organising committee wants to say a big thank you to the many sponsors who help make the event possible. R&R Hire, Yamaha, MBRC, Beerwah Hotel, Janet C's Art, Liam KC & Luke M and the Caboolture Historical Village were our major sponsor group this year but just as generous were the many small businesses and individuals who contributed to sponsoring a section. Thank to everyone – all much appreciated.

Bek and Barbara shared the co-ordinator's role and led an enthusiastic committee to make it all happen. Homestead is always on the lookout for members to be involved in this group. If you would like to be part of the committee, please let Barbara know asap and she'll keep you in the loop for next year's preparations. It is likely that neither Barb nor Bek may be available for this role for 2020. If you would like to consider helping our club out in this way, talk to Barb and she can talk you through the role.

Thanks so much to all those who cooked, cleaned, manned doors, worked in back rooms, or played any role in making the day run so smoothly. What a great group of older club members we have here at Homestead. It speaks volumes for our club that young people want to come back year after year to perform at our expo. Well done to all.

Cheers
Bob Cole

