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MEDIA RELEASE

Action aplenty for SBS Bank Southland on Show 2011

Things will certainly be cooking at SBS Bank Southland on Show this year and Southland's celebrity television presenter Astar is going to make sure of that with her celebrity guest appearance and cooking demonstrations in the SBS Bank marquee.

With 22 years of television appearances on the week day series *Good Morning*, Astar is looking forward to sharing six recipes during two one-hour long cooking demonstrations in the SBS Bank marquee on Saturday 5 March, along with judging the baby competition, presenting some ribbons and awards, including "Best Animal in Show" following the Grand Parade and mingling with the public throughout the day.

Show co-ordinator Juanita Thornton said as a true blue Southland, Astar was really looking forward to celebrating the great produce on offer in the south through the popular Southern Farmers Market.

"We're sourcing as much produce as possible from the Farmers Market team for Astar to use in her cooking demonstrations and she is also looking forward to heading along to the market at Southland Boys' High School on Sunday 6 March as well.

"Following on from last year's special guest appearance from top cyclist Eddie Dawkins, we are working to have a couple of top achieving stars from Basketball Southland's Sharks team who will have interactive have-a-go activities for everyone to enjoy on the day

Mrs Thornton said another new participant on board this year was the team from Kidz Kartz who would be running demonstration races, along with tips on driving safely and tactfully on the trotting track and information on caring for a horse and pony and the associated gear. There would be plenty more action and entertainment for the children with mini jeeps, bungee tramp, bouncy castles, a merry go round, Crazy Bikes, magic shows and face painting.

This year the event is being moved to a one-day 'People's Day' on Saturday 5 March, allowing the public to have one full day to see all the sheep, beef, dairy and equestrian classes, along with specialty classes, trade exhibitors and family entertainment.

Due to the size of the equestrian programme, they will continue to run a two-day format through until Sunday 6 March. There will be an entry fee on the Saturday but any public wanting to return to take in the equestrian-only action on day two will gain free entry.

SBS Bank general manager agribusiness Malcolm Little said his team was excited to see the new format and a number of new community groups on board offering an even broader range of family-orientated activities.

"The local A & P Show is renowned for being a real family affair and SBS Bank Southland on Show 2011 is shaping up to really reflect that long-standing tradition of being such a key community event.

“We hope to see Southlanders flocking to support all event and enjoy all the great entertainment and activities that the Southland A & P Association’s hard working team of organisers has put together.

“I also know my team will be hoping to glean any tips they can from Astar during her cooking demonstrations in the SBS Bank marquee.”

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