



SUNFLOWERS ON THE PLAINS
2025–2026 Sunflower Season Report
Presented to the Liverpool Plains Business Chamber Inc.
24 August 2026

Overview

The 2025–2026 season was another busy year for Sunflowers on the Plains, with our focus continuing to be on attracting visitors to the Liverpool Plains, supporting local businesses and creating community events.

Due to a shortage of volunteers, we made the decision to concentrate our efforts on local events rather than attempting to manage every aspect of the sunflower season.

We decided to discontinue the Sunflower Garden Competition due to the lack of entries and also leave the running of the Sunflower Trail to Plains Inc. We simply did not have enough volunteers to manage the trail while still giving 100% of our time to our other events.

Despite these challenges, the season produced some excellent results and introduced several new initiatives.

2025–2026 Highlights

Quirindi Spring Show

Our stand at the Quirindi Spring Show on September 13th and 14th was a great success, with approximately 15 kilograms of sunflower seed given out.

We also met with representatives from the Blacktown Sister City to discuss future promotion of the Liverpool Plains and the possibility of future sponsorship.

Blacktown Streets Alive Festival – 30 May 2026

Graham Bullock from Sunflowers on the Plains, Tammie Clark from the Liverpool Plains Business Chamber and Sue Nichols from Quirindi Heritage Village attended the Blacktown Streets Alive Festival.

We set up a stand to promote the Liverpool Plains as a tourist destination. We displayed examples of the different crops grown throughout the Liverpool Plains, which proved very popular with visitors. We also displayed the Silo Art Model and provided brochures highlighting the many tourist attractions throughout the shire.

The feedback from visitors was very positive, and we intend to return to the festival again next year.

Kids' Art Competition

Once again, we received a large number of entries for the Kids' Art Competition. The competition continues to be a popular way of involving local children in Sunflowers on the Plains.

Prizes were presented at the Sunflower Throwing Competition.

Sunflower Weaving Circle

The Sunflower Weaving Circle was a new event this year and proved very popular.

As a direct result, a small group now meets every fortnight at Rosalie Park under the banner of Miradhuul Creations. This has been a wonderful example of a new event developing into an ongoing community activity.

Paint and Sip

Unfortunately, the planned Paint and Sip event did not go ahead. We will look at running the event again next season.

Quirindi Silo Art Christmas Event

We set up a stand at the Quirindi Silo Art Christmas Event, giving out more free sunflower seed and promoting our upcoming events.

Sunflower Art Competition

A new Sunflower Art Competition was held at the Random Rural Art Shed in Willow Tree, organised by Robbie Marheine and Gary Yeoman.

The exhibition attracted locals and travellers, with approximately 20 paintings sold. It was a great success, and we hope to continue the event annually.

Twilight Picnic

Unfortunately, the Twilight Picnic in the Sunflower Fields was cancelled due to the heat and a lack of volunteers.

5th Annual Sunflower Throwing Competition

The 5th Annual Sunflower Throwing Competition was held at the Quirindi Rural Heritage Village on February 22nd.

The event included the popular sunflower throwing competition, Kids Zone, face painting, festival hair, sandpit, car boot sale, vintage cars, museum, Train World and miniature trains.

First Responders Competition

A new First Responders Competition was introduced this year, with emergency service representatives competing for bragging rights.

The competition was won by the Quirindi Fire Brigade – NSW Fire and Rescue Service.

We hope this will become an annual feature of the event.

Yurri and Inna Churchenko

We were also very fortunate to have Yurri and Inna Churchenko from Ukraine join us, with Yurri acting as MC.

Yurri and Inna were sponsored by Mark and Jenny Chappell to come to Australia in 2022 after being left homeless when Russia invaded Ukraine.

The February 22nd event was particularly significant as it marked four years to the day since the war began in Ukraine.

Sunflower Trail

The lack of rain had a significant impact on the number of sunflower fields available this season.

The trail was reduced from a possible nine fields to four. Although visitor numbers may have been slightly lower, the remaining fields still attracted plenty of people and demonstrated the ongoing potential of sunflowers to bring visitors and tourism dollars into the Liverpool Plains.

Going Forward – We Need Your Help

The biggest challenge facing Sunflowers on the Plains is volunteers.

We currently have only two or three volunteers organising all our events, with another three or four helping at the events themselves.

Unfortunately, we are not getting any younger, and we cannot continue without more people coming on board.

We have put enormous effort into building Sunflowers on the Plains into an event that attracts visitors to the Liverpool Plains each year and brings much-needed funds into our local communities.

Without more volunteers, we will not be able to continue.

If you can spare even a few hours of your time, please approach Graham Bullock, Sandra Saunders or the Liverpool Plains Business Chamber and let us know how you can help. Every hour makes a difference.

Looking Ahead

Sunflowers on the Plains remains committed to promoting the Liverpool Plains as a tourist destination, supporting local businesses and providing community events that bring people into the region.

The 2025–2026 season has shown that even with difficult growing conditions and limited volunteers, there is still enormous potential.

We thank the Liverpool Plains Business Chamber, our volunteers, local businesses, growers, artists, community groups and everyone who has supported Sunflowers on the Plains.

With additional volunteers and continued community support, we look forward to making the 2026–2027 season even bigger and better.

Sunflowers on the Plains – growing tourism, community and the Liverpool Plains.

Graham Bullock
Chair – Sunflower on the Plains