

A & P Show success: No 151



Different experiences: Tiah Gibb, 12, left and Courtney Moody, 13, both from Napier, on The Turbo Boost.

"That's the weather for you," A&P Show event manager Anna Hamilton said on Sunday, as she estimated that visitors over the three days would surpass 20,000 but fall well short of the hoped for 30,000.

She was very pleased that at least the first two days were fine and "very busy".

For those two days the crowd streamed through the gate to watch 20 different competitions, from showjumping and dressage, to fencing, fleece judging and dog trials.

But when the rain hit about midday on Friday, there was a "mass exodus" that took about an hour to clear as hundreds of drivers tried to get out the one gate at once, Hamilton said.

"The weather didn't quite hold out for us [on Friday] but we can't complain about the other two days."

The highlight of the last day was, as always, the grand parade. "It was great, it went really well and there were lots of animals."



All smiles: Handlers in the cattle judging ring enjoy themselves.

Poised: Hastings' Grace Stevenson on Maxwellton Dashing Dougall in the under-12 equitation competition on Thursday.

There were no real hitches, she said.

"Nothing too major."

It took a year to prepare for the show, Hamilton said.

Not surprising given it involved organising 350 volunteers, erecting 1000m of temporary fencing, co-ordinating 240 trade sites, managing 2700 horse and rider combinations, planning parking for 6000 cars, and selling tickets

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Sweet little lambs: Havelock North's Williams sisters Annabelle, 11, and Henrietta, 9, with some spring lambs in the petting area at the 151st Hawke's Bay Show last Thursday. Photos: CLINTON LLEWELLYN



Boys and toys: Euan Cruise, 5, from Waipawa gets a lesson in excavating from Doug the Digger.