

Bush Christmas Expo

Graziers show off creative side at 13th annual event

By Stuart Cumming

Goomburra graziers David and Libby Blomfield have put their creative side on display in Toowoomba this week at the 13th Bush Christmas expo.

Mrs Blomfield said they had become regular vendors at the event, designed to give rural people a place to display and sell hand made items of all descriptions.

Mr Blomfield uses his refined blacksmith skills to create jewellery and silverware while Mrs Blomfield sews various items like men's boxer shorts and bags.

"Like a lot of people, it is handy to have an extra income in the middle of a drought," Mrs Blomfield said.

About 120 vendors will have their goods on display at the Masonic Hall on Neil Street until Saturday.

People from Winton, Bourke, Broken Hill and all areas in between will display soaps, gourmet food, clothes, books and a plethora of other speciality goods.

Organiser Liz McClymont said every item for sale was hand made.

"It is amazing what people can do," Mrs McClymont said.

Mrs McClymont now lives at Pilton but started organising the expo when living at Bollon, between St George and Cumnamulla.

"I think I had to live out there to realise there was a need for it.

"It promotes the creative talent of people in the bush."

The expo is limited to around 120 vendors but those who return more than once are encouraged to change what they make to ensure the same type of items are not on display year after year.

"We try to give them a reason to grow with their talent."



▲ Jewellery and clothing hand made by Goomburra resident Libby Blomfield (pictured) and her husband David are part of the many bush inspired items on display. Pictures: Dave Noonan



▲ Chinchilla based author Jame McLean writes outback fiction that moves away from the "McLeods Daughters" portrayal of life in the bush.