



THRIVING SOUTHLAND Media Release

13 December 2024

Donner, Blitzen, Dancer, Prancer, even the big man himself, Santa, are making appearances all over the province for the annual Southland Catchment Group Christmas Competition.

With only a week to go until this year's winners are announced, farming families are combining their festive spirit and creative flair with a healthy dose of neighbourly rivalry to bring some festive cheer to Southland's rural landscape.

Apart from bragging rights, up for grabs are a range of impressive prizes thanks to generous sponsorship from 13 southern businesses.

Thriving Southland senior catchment co-ordinator Rachael Halder said the event was in its fourth year and had taken on a life of its own.

"It's become a real family affair. You get Dad in charge of all the heavy lifting, the kids going wild with spray paint and Mum coordinating everything."

The competition had been a welcome distraction from the challenges everyone had faced weather-wise during the spring and early summer, she said.

There was still time to get a sneaky entry in, just go to Thriving Southland's website for details - www.thrivingsouthland.co.nz . The competition was open to any business associated with the agricultural sector, as well as Catchment Groups, families and individuals.

Halder acknowledged the support of the event's sponsors.

"We're extremely grateful for the generosity of local businesses. It's blown us away and is testament to the popularity of this event."

Anyone wanting to enjoy the amazing Christmas displays will find a map with all the locations on Thriving Southland's website - www.thrivingsouthland.co.nz

The winners will be announced on Friday 20 December via Thriving Southland's Facebook page - www.facebook.com/@ThrivingSouthland

This year's sponsors are:

Southland Rural Support Trust, Recycle South, AB Lime, Northern Southland Transport, The Grocer, CMC Contracting Limited, Resolution Farming App, ILT, RealNZ, McIntyre Dick, Southland Chamber of Commerce, Bridgestone, Southland Farm Machinery.

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For enquiries, please get in touch with Thriving Southland senior catchment co-ordinator Rachael Halder, phone 021-566-229.