

Christine Sutton from Temora / Pic: Ross Schultz

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 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2013 (http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/specials/eastershow-2013)

IT'S time to get the Show on the road again. All the way from Temora, in central western NSW, Jeff Sutton's prized sheep will be among the first to be judged in the Sheep And Wool Pavilion when the gates to the Sydney Royal Easter Show officially swing open today.

His Border Leicester sheep was crowned Australian Champion last year and he has returned to Sydney this year, with his four-year-old daughter Christine, in a bid to claim some more blue ribbons.

"We're certainly hoping to win it again," he said.

"I'd say our chances are pretty good, too. He's a very classy sheep with a tremendous head and fleece."

While the Show will not open during school holidays for the first time in years, organisers still expect 900,000 visitors through the turnstiles each day.

The show's chief operating officer Michael Collins said all the rides, food stalls, displays, animals and shows were ready to go and many had worked hard over the past few weeks to get everything done in time for today's opening.

"This year the Show is celebrating 190 years since the very first one was held in 1823 at Parramatta Park," Mr Collins said.

"This year's Show is another amazing example of the mix of the tradition, innovation and recognition of excellence that makes this annual event so special."

New to the Show this year is Darcy's Quest, a uniquely Australian spectacular featuring a 8m-high steel robot, monster trucks, pyrotechnics and stunt motorcyclists, which tells the story of a world without animals.

Showgoers will also love the new beer and wine garden as a space to enjoy some award-winning produce from around the country.

Mr Collins said the annual event was Australia's biggest and most respected agricultural show.

"So many Sydneysiders have wonderful memories of their visits to the Show and, indeed, some of our exhibitors and competitors are following amazingly strong family traditions to be here," he said.