

The Daily Advertiser

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Cheers as Christmas arrives early for 1400

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FESTIVE CHEER: Riverina Pearls' Gemma Exton is just one of the stallholders at the Children's Medical Research Institute's Christmas Fair, which continues today. Picture: Les Smith



Jaelyn Plum of Wagga with two-year-old Edward Suttie checking out metal barnyard animals for sale at the Christmas Fair at the MTC. Picture: Les Smith



Four-year-old Caden Taylor and his brother Jake, 3, explore the sheep at the Gardeners Studio site at the Christmas Fair at the MTC. Picture: Les Smith

CHRISTMAS is coming.

There are less than two months until the big day and it was on the minds of more than 1400 people who streamed through the gates for the Christmas Fair yesterday.

The annual event is staged to help raise money for the Children's Medical Research Institute.

Last year more than \$50,000 was raised and the committee is well on the way to reaching that number again.

Committee president Catherine Cruikshank said the response yesterday was fantastic.

"A lot of people are doing their Christmas shopping," she said.

"People have said it looks amazing and the weather is great ... we've got carloads of people from Albury-Wodonga, Hay, Cootamundra and Young," Mrs Cruikshank said.

While the date has moved to late October, Mrs Cruikshank said it was a positive change.

"I don't think the date has dampened the spirit at all," she said.

There are more than 90 stall holders at the fair, some who have been taking part for 26 years.

It's Annette Hart's first time at the fair.

"It's bigger than what I was thinking ... it's been a good day, the weather is good and people are here," she said.

Mrs Hart is selling dry dip mixes which go with sour cream.

“They’re great for the summer entertainment,” she said.

Another first time Christmas Fair stallholder is Stacey Clayton, who travelled up from Rutherglen in Victoria.

“We’re very excited to be here, I’ve never seen anything like this ... it’s just beautiful and for a beautiful cause,” Mrs Clayton said.

Together with her sister who lives in Balranald, they operate Koolamon Designs, creating unique keepsakes.

“Being so isolated it’s great to be around so many talented people.”

The Christmas Fair continues today until 4pm at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club and entry for adults is \$5.