

ORGANISERS of the Middleton Country Fair have cancelled next year's event because of the threat posed by Covid 19.

It is the second time in three years that the largest community event in the Channel has been cancelled. In 2019 the show was cancelled because of a smoke hazard linked to bushfires in the Huon Valley.

The event is organised by the South Channel Ratepayers & Residents Association and over almost three decades has raised thousands of dollars for community projects in the South Channel.

One of the organisers, Middleton resident Gloria Lonergan, said: "The decision has been taken by SCRRA with great regret to cancel the fair but feel we have no other option in view of Covid 19. We are aware that the decision will disappoint the hundreds of people who normally attend and the many stallholders who support us each year but we feel this is a sensible decision. We hope to be back in 2022 bigger and better than ever".

The cancellation has been announced now because of the pre-planning the event requires. The show is normally held on the first Saturday in February and features a programme of non-stop entertainment in addition to a wide range of stallholders selling food, crafts and plants. Money raised has been devoted to a range of community projects including a practice cricket strip, new signage and improvements and additions to facilities at Three Hut Point in Gordon where a plaque marks the visit of French navigator Bruni d'Entrecasteaux in 1792.