



Media Release

Thursday May 26, 2011

A day for food, fibre and Ekka discovery

More than 1,300 Brisbane primary school students and 250 teachers will get a taste of some of the exciting educational and animal experiences on offer at this year's Ekka when they attend the RNA's innovative Rural Discovery Day today.

Students aged 5 to 12 are making their way to the RNA Showgrounds this morning to learn about 'all things rural' and develop an understanding of where their food, fibre and foliage comes from.

RNA Chief Executive Jonathan Tunny said education was a key cornerstone of the RNA and Rural Discovery Day was about bridging the city / country divide through a unique hands-on learning experience.

"There's a lot of fun to be had with students given the opportunity to milk a cow, taste some of Queensland's best produce, see sniffer dogs in action and talk to real farmers – something that many city children don't have the opportunity to do," he said.

"They will be shown that anytime they eat fresh food, wear a pair of jeans or put milk on their cereal, they are supporting Australia's farmers and primary industries.

"Students from Proston, 300 kilometres and four hours west of Brisbane, are coming all this way to teach their city cousins about the country – specifically about how to care for cattle and prepare them for show.

"The 1,300 students will make their way around 32 exhibits including geese, turkeys, ducks, chickens, horses, sheep, sheep dogs, goats and alpacas, with flood hero Danette the Wonder Cow also making a special appearance.

"Students will find out about Danette's amazing journey being pulled out of the mouth of the Brisbane River during the January floods and how she managed to survive," Mr Tunny said.

"More than 10,000 animals would move into Ekka in 77 days time; and today more than 80 animals would be on site giving students a small taste of what to expect this August.

"As Queensland's largest classroom, the Ekka provides a unique opportunity to extend learning across all disciplines."

Rural Discovery Day has attracted students from across South-East Queensland and from a range of schools including distance education, rural, metropolitan and special education units.

ENDS

Ekka



RNA Showgrounds
600 Gregory Terrace
Bowen Hills Brisbane
Queensland Australia
Locked Bag 1010
Albion Queensland
Australia 4010

T +61 7 3852 1831
F +61 3257 1428
enquiries@rna.org.au
www.rna.org.au
ABN 41 417 513 726



Editors please note:

- Rural Discovery Day best vision for media between 10.00am to 2.00pm at the RNA Showgrounds, Brisbane
- 32 exhibits are on display from pineapples to alpacas, plus 80 animals
- For more information see the [Rural Discovery Day Fact Sheet](#)

Media Enquiries:

RNA Media and Communications Officer
Katie Johnston
Tel: 07 3253 3931 or 0433 376 713



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