

SHOWBIZ

SPRING 2019

A show of support
for Ekka 2019



Remembering Ben Matthews
an Ekka Legend

Charity Fundraiser
full of fun and friendship



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The official magazine of the RNA



RNA Charity Fundraiser



Get cooking with Mel

Welcome

More than 413,000 people attended the 142nd Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) to celebrate agriculture and its importance to the community.

Our goal was to welcome 400,000 through the gates, so it was wonderful to see such a show of support for Queensland's largest and most loved annual event, and for our farming families battling drought and the devastation of the February floods.

Perfect weather over the 10 days and the RNA freezing all ticket prices for the first time in 11 years also encouraged Queenslanders to attend the show.

The Ekka is the people's show and that's why it must remain affordable for all.

This year we were proud to have made another major investment in our facilities through the construction of Alexandria Park, which the public and our competition exhibitors can enjoy for generations to come.

Featuring two additional acres of green and events space, Alexandria Park became the new home for our popular Canine Competition presented by Black Hawk.



Competitions lie at the heart of the show and this year we welcomed more than 21,000 competition entries across 42 competition sections.

There was an increase in entries across many competition sections including canine, fine arts and farriers and blacksmiths.

Entry numbers for our stud beef and led steer competitions also increased, which was very pleasing considering the drought.

I would like to thank our RNA members, Ekka exhibitors, competitors, judges and stewards, volunteers, sponsors and visitors for a successful show. Thank you also to my fellow RNA Councillors and the RNA staff for their unwavering dedication and commitment.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2020 Royal Queensland Show.

David Thomas
RNA President

Remembering Ekka legend Ben Matthews



The RNA is deeply saddened by the passing of a man who made a remarkable contribution to the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) - Ben Matthews.

He was the recipient of the 2018 Ekka Legend Award, which recognises the dedication and effort made by an individual. The award was introduced in 2004 and just 15 people have been bestowed the RNA's most prestigious honour.

Ben started out in the Ekka Agricultural Hall as a rural youth competitor, mentor and steward. In 1966 at just 25 years of age, Ben became a steward with the pig section. In the years to follow, Ben stewarded across various sections including dairy cows, dairy goats and pigs. This Ekka marked Ben's 54th year as a steward - 51 years of which had been with the dairy goat section.

RNA Councillor Duncan McInnes spoke at

Ben's funeral at Caboolture Baptist Church in late September and said Ben had given so much of his time and knowledge to not just the RNA, but many other show societies.

"Together with his wife Yvonne, father Tom and son Thomas, the Matthews' family has well over 100 years of service to the Ekka," he said.

"Ben's father Tom was an RNA Councillor and his son Thomas is now following in his father's footsteps as a steward in the goat and dairy cattle sections, carrying on the Matthews' family connection with the show.

"Apart from the Ekka, Ben has been involved in many other shows including Woodford, Kilcoy and Maleny running the goat section at each.

"He was particularly involved in his beloved Caboolture Show Society where as well

as running the goat section he was on the management committee for over 30 years. He was also a delegate to the Near North Coast Sub Branch of QCAS for over 30 years."

Mr McInnes also spoke about his eight year friendship with Ben, since becoming an RNA Councillor in 2011 and a member of the Dairy Cattle and Goat Committees.

Mr McInnes said in 2014 he was elected as Chairman of those committees and Ben was his right hand man looking after goats.

"One of Ben's major assets was his repour with exhibitors," he said.

"His cheerful disposition was always evident when greeting someone who he hadn't seen since the previous Ekka.

"I thank Ben for his friendship, wisdom and advice over the last eight years."

As a much loved member of the Ekka family, Ben will be sadly missed.



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Susan Hennessey



Susan Hennessey was presented with flowers on behalf of the RNA at the 2019 Fine Arts Reception, as a thank you for her hard work and dedication.

The RNA's Councillor for Fine Arts Susan Hennessey has retired.

Susan is one of 21 RNA Councillors who has dedicated a large part of their lives to making the Ekka such a great experience.

Her involvement at the show spans an incredible 55 years.

Susan first came to Ekka as a 14 year old in 1963 and as a young girl she entered the riding competitions in the ring.

She then got her local pony club involved and her family would bring a truck load of children up to Ekka each year to compete.

Susan's father Jack Ambler then became an RNA Councillor for the Fine Arts section and Susan would help him with his show responsibilities.

When her Dad passed away, Susan continued to help her mum Lorna who was

involved in the cookery and arts section of the show.

In 2001 Susan was elected to the RNA Council and was the first women elected to the executive committee in 2006.

Since then she has continued to run and grow the Fine Arts and Cookery section of the show into one of most popular exhibits.

Susan's entire family has been roped into helping her set up and run the Fine Arts competition over the years together with husband Phil.

Her daughter Michelle and sons Benjamin and Stephen have all been involved, along with Susan's grandchildren.

Susan has been a loyal and passionate advocate of the RNA and the Ekka and her guidance, expertise and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

Q&A with Susan Hennessey

What will you miss most about the RNA?

The people. All of the stewards, volunteers and exhibitors. Over the years I've gotten to know the artists, crafters and a lot of the cooks quite well.

What has been your proudest achievement as an RNA Councillor?

That's a really hard question! I think maintaining the fine arts and watching it grow and develop into one of the most popular exhibits at show. Every year we try to do something new to stay relevant.

Will you be attending Ekka 2020?

Absolutely! As long as I'm in Australia.

News in Brief

Festivals bring big crowds to the Brisbane Showgrounds

Photo by Curdin Photo



Music festival season kicked off at the Brisbane Showgrounds in late September, with more than 40,000 people attending Australia's premier dance music event Listen Out (pictured).

The line-up included huge international names like American rapper Denzel Curry and American DJ Diplo, along with homegrown headliner Flume.

The large-scale event utilised 10 major venue spaces at the Showgrounds including the Main Arena, Marquees 1 and 2 and The Pavilion.

Brisbane Showgrounds General Manager

of Venue Sales and Marketing Jago Coyle said the Showgrounds was well suited to hosting music festivals.

"Thanks to our inner city location and large variety of indoor and outdoor spaces, we provide the perfect backdrop for some of the best festivals in the country," he said.

"Popular events RNB Fridays Live, Festival X, Good Things, Wildlands and FOMO are all scheduled to take place at the venue this spring/summer festival season."

Upcoming events:

- Let's Go Brisbane Caravan & Outdoor Sale - October 31-November 03

- The Finders Keepers Market Brisbane Spring/Summer 2019 - November 8-10
- Hit105's RNB Fridays Live - November 15
- Hometown Fest - November 23-24
- Festival X Brisbane - November 29
- Brisbane Etsy Made Local - November 30-December 1

For more information and events, head to our What's On website page by clicking here.

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Meet our 2019 Ekka legend

Mr Fred Andrews has been a popular fixture of the Ekka horse stables for nearly 50 years and was awarded the coveted 2019 Ekka Legend Award for service to the Royal Queensland Show.

Mr Andrews began his association with the Ekka as a harness racing competitor in the early 1970s, moving onto RNA trotting and swabbing steward roles which he fulfilled until last year when he retired at the age of 92.

RNA President David Thomas said the Ekka legend award was bestowed on those who had made a remarkable contribution to the show.

“Fred Andrews has been a mainstay of the Ekka horse stables for nearly half a century and his passion for horse racing and the show’s horse competition is undeniable,” he said.

“When the trots were run every day at show in the 1970s, Fred was there as a trots steward and then he moved onto become swabbing steward for an

incredible 40 years.

“Fred was recognised for the longevity of his involvement at the Royal Queensland Show but equally for his impeccable presentation and professionalism.

“He is held in such high regard by his colleagues and show horse competitors.”

Fred Andrews has also been immortalised in RNA history as one of the young horse stewards in the iconic Ekka photograph of the three men sitting on Row 1 of the horse stables (see picture below).

Mr Thomas said even to this day Fred Andrews could be found on his favourite Row 1 bench in the stables.

“Swabbing stewards are only required at certain times during the horse competition but you could rely on Fred to be there every day ready to work and always in the same spot on Row 1, which is now affectionately known as ‘Fred’s bench.’

“We thank Fred for his valuable contribution to the Royal Queensland Show over many years.”

A show of support for the Ekka

Beautiful weather, exceptional animals, world-class entertainment and a freeze on ticket prices attracted a bumper crowd of more than 413,000 people to the 142nd Royal Queensland Show (Ekka).

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said the unique opportunity to enjoy country life in the heart of the city had attracted people from right across Australia and overseas.

“We’re absolutely thrilled at the support shown for the Ekka,” he said.

“Last year 414,000 people came to the show - the biggest crowds since 2011 - and the 2019 Ekka wasn’t far behind.

“We enjoyed record pre-sales, which showed the public appreciated that we froze all ticket prices for the first time in 11 years.”

Super Ride Tuesday was successful with a 12 per cent increase in gate numbers, Super Seniors Day also saw an increase of 11 per cent and Super Food Sunday had a 15 per cent increase in attendance.





Photo by Ingrid Matschke



Animals at home in their new homes

Ellie (left) and Frankie Kersevani from Kenmore enjoy some family time in the animal nursery

More than 100,000 people visited the popular RACQ Animal Nursery in its new larger location over the 10 days of Ekka.

The nursery and its hundreds of animals relocated to Expo Place this year, next door to the Kids Carnival area and adjacent Alexandria Park.

The RACQ Animal Nursery is the Ekka's most popular daytime attraction.

Families enjoyed getting up close to farmyard animals including lambs, goats, ducklings and working dog puppies.

The Ekka's Canine Competition presented by Black Hawk also had a new home this year, in Alexandria Park.

The canine judging ring was located in a custom marquee on the grass, allowing entrants to exhibit their dogs on real turf.

The park, featuring two acres of additional green and event space, also offered greatly improved lighting, power and ambience for public viewing.

Canine wasn't the only competition with a new home, with all four storeys of the

Arrow Energy Pavilion used to house animals at the Ekka for the very first time.

The pavilion opened last year with the ground and first floors in use for the show, housing beef and dairy cattle, dairy goats and poultry.

The animals new to the pavilion this year were sheep, angoras and alpacas.

Visitors enjoyed the extra two football fields of space where they could see animals at the show and watch them being judged.



EkkaNITES



More than 20,000 people packed the Main Arena each night of show, for the spectacular never before seen night show EkkaNITES supported by RACQ LifeFlight Rescue.

The crowds enjoyed two and a half hours of entertainment, from two stunning fireworks displays to high octane monster trucks and wild brumbies. To see video footage of the EkkaNITES acts, [view our Ekka TV episode by clicking here.](#)

The night show also paid tribute to our farming families, with many battling drought and the devastating February floods, including through the 'Fireworks Spectacular – A Celebration of the Human

Spirit.' The fireworks displays were once again popular with the crowds, with more than three tonnes of pyrotechnics used each evening. The night show also included Dave Manchon's 'A Drovers Tale' which featured 58 horses and sheep dogs herding ducks, along with hilarious lumberjacks who speed climbed a 50 foot pole. The Ekka's Entertainment team is already planning EkkaNITES 2020, but here are some things you may not have known about EkkaNITES 2019.

Did you know?

- Sheep dogs Eden and Cruise spent two years of intense training to herd ducks in 'A Drover's Tale'
- The fire breathing dragon in the children's fireworks came from South Gippsland in Victoria. It took a 2,000km road trip to get it to Brisbane
- Max Brunner from Skylighter FireworX sourced the latest pyrotechnic products from around the globe for the two fireworks displays

Supermodel returns to her roots

The world's first supermodel with Down Syndrome, Madeline Stuart, walked in the Ekka's Natural Fibres Fashion Parades presented by Channel Seven this year - the runway that inspired her global career.

Now a global social media superstar with more than a million followers, Brisbane resident Madeline attended her first fashion parade with her mum Rosanne at the Ekka in 2014. It was at this parade Maddy told her Mum she wanted to model.

Madeline's mother and manager Rosanne Stuart said as soon as they walked into the Ekka parade, Maddy was captivated by the models on the catwalk.

"The desire to model was immediate after seeing the Ekka parade and look where that dream has taken Maddy," she said.

In the four years since that decision,

Madeline has walked in more than 100 fashion shows across the globe, including New York Fashion Week for the past six seasons.

Through Madeline's work in the fashion industry, she has been able to influence the world to accept people with disabilities on the catwalk as well as in major branding campaigns. She has featured in campaigns for Benefit Cosmetics, Diesel, American Eagle and Tommy Hilfiger.

Maddy also caught the attention of social media platform Instagram itself, which has 314 million followers. Instagram came to the show to follow Maddy's journey to the Ekka catwalk, creating a video for their #Advocates series. The video has been viewed a phenomenal 11.2 million times.

To watch Maddy's inspirational journey to Ekka, please click here.



A Knockout Honour

Professional Brisbane boxer Jeff Horn celebrates with his Grandad Jack Dykstra, who was honoured for 50 years of showing poultry in the Ekka's Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs Competition presented by Australian Eggs.



Teaching the next generation

More than 30,000 children were educated in Queensland's largest classroom over the 10 days of show.

This included 6,607 students from 97 schools, with some travelling from as far as Victoria and Papua New Guinea.

Not only did the students learn about agriculture, they also covered subjects

including food and nutrition, hospitality, music, art, geography and history. There were even cultural excursions for Italian and Japanese students.

The children learnt about urban farming at the new Little Backyard Farmers activity at The Old Museum, which featured six hands-on stations from collecting eggs to harvesting vegetables.

They also completed hands-on activities in the Agricultural Hall presented by Seqwater including cooking healthy quiches at the 'Kids Get Cracking, Get Cooking with Australian Eggs' stand.

To see the educational activities at the Ekka, view our Ekka TV episode by [clicking here](#).

PICK OF THE BUNCH: Kyle Suitor rocking his Bertie Beetle inspired beard



NAMASTE: Costa Georgiadis feeling zen at goat yoga



Flower power

Ekka's Flower Beard Competition presented by Heritage Bank was once again a hit at The Old Museum. Fourteen florists and their bearded men

entered the quirky competition, with a Bertie Beetle inspired beard designed by Tree House florist owner Mouse Blaine proving popular with the voting public.

TV host and Logie winner Costa Georgiadis once again MC'd the competition, before trying his luck at some Goat Yoga presented by Hit105 which was also held at The Old Museum.

*numbers are approximate



Ekka by the numbers*

Food & drink

220,000+ Dagwood Dogs

210,000+ schooners of beer

180,000+ Strawberry Sundaes

40,000+ cheese toasties

39,500+ glasses of wine

Technology

18,100,408

content views across Ekka's social media platforms (including Instagram's Madeline Stuart post)

3.5 million

page views on the Ekka website

3.4 million

content views on the Ekka Facebook page

105,000+ #ekka Instagram posts

31,000+ Ekka app downloads

Other

250,000 Bertie Beetle showbags

\$601,000+
competition prize pool

3 tonnes+
of fireworks used each night

380+ retailers

69 tree poles used in the woodchop competition



Champions 2019

Category	Winner
Thoroughbred	
Supreme Champion Thoroughbred	Secrets Surround, Kristy Mason, Warwick QLD
Most Successful Exhibitor – Thoroughbred	Kristy Mason, Warwick QLD
Horse Breeds	
Supreme Champion Australian Stockhorse	Hillview Lodge Opulent, Madison Bryans, Upper Caboolture QLD
Supreme Champion Clydesdale	Duneske Flash Pearl, J M & I Stewart-Koster, Nutgrove QLD
Supreme Champion Riding Pony	Royal Anarchy of Hannaley, Hannaley Riding Ponies, Jimboomba QLD
Supreme Champion ANSA	Sigmund, Janine Shepherdson & Lucy Thomson, Logan Village QLD
Supreme Champion Arabian Derivative	Twilon Ethereal Elegance, Chantelle Fogarty, Stanmore QLD
Supreme Champion Australian Pony	Riverglen Zion, Riverglen Pony Stud, Bundaberg QLD
Supreme Champion Australian Saddle Pony	Riverglen Zion, Riverglen Pony Stud, Bundaberg QLD
Supreme Champion Shetland Pony	Dunthomas Gene, Janis Young, Caboolture QLD
Supreme Champion Warmblood	EBL Empress, Lilley & Baxter Austin, Tamborine QLD
Supreme Champion Welsh Mountain Pony	Llangollen Porsche, Kristi Gartner, Southbrook QLD
Supreme Champion Welsh Pony	Bellgarra Heaven Sent, Keiley Anne Bell, Narrabri NSW
Showjumping	
Champion Rider	Courtney Ticknell, Yandina QLD
Royal Queensland Show Grand Prix	Samantha Morrison on Biarritz, Mutdapilly QLD
Royal Queensland Show Mini Prix	Hayley Morris on Balmoral Henton, Kalbar QLD
The Colin Meagher Memorial Young Riders Championship	Limo, Courtney Ticknell, Yandina QLD
Farriers & Blacksmiths	
Stockmans Supplies Most Successful Exhibitor - Open	Tom Petersen, Bozeman, Montana USA
Most Successful Exhibitor - Intermediate	Labe Sutton, Tarampa QLD
Most Successful Exhibitor - Novice	Zac Johnson, Strathalbyn SA
Horses in Action	
Champion Hack of Queensland	Legacy, Universals Stables & Adam Oliver, Guanaba, QLD
Champion Show Hunter Hack of Queensland	Federer, Universal Stables and Rebecca Orane, Chandler QLD
Champion Galloway Hack of Queensland	Kensington Tuscan Diamond, J Uppington & P Lenihan, Logan Village QLD
Champion Open Show Hunter Galloway of Queensland	Astbury Aristocat, Styles Equestrian, A & T Harris & C Glenny, Jimboomba QLD
Champion Open Pony Hack of Queensland – Over 12.2 Hands	TL Toy Boy, The Douglas Family, Greenbank QLD
Champion Show Hunter Pony of Queensland	Whitere Royal Opera, Styles Equestrian & Chelsea & Holly Taunton, Jimboomba QLD
Champion Lady Rider	Renee Sompson on Alkyra Conquest, Innisfail QLD
Champion Gentleman Rider	Universal stables and Rebecca Crane on Candiman, Chandler QLD
Woodchop & Sawing	
Junior Champion Axeman of the Show	Matt Cofey, Mitchell Park VIC
Canine	
Champion of Show	Sup.Ch. Picardy Point Of View, Julie Lyons, Lota QLD
Cats	
Supreme All Breeds Feline of Show	Babuschka Zeus, Tracey Stewart, Flynn ACT
Pisciculture	
Champion Fish	Fishchick Aquatics, Annerley QLD
Grand Champion Exhibit of Show	Fishchick Aquatics, Annerley QLD
Grand Champion Betta Splenden of Show	Betta Camp, Jachok, Fishchick Aquatics, Annerley QLD



Poultry	
Clive Claus Memorial Prize Supreme Grand Champion Fowl of Show	Bantam Australian Langshan – Black Cockerel, O & J Glover, Narangba QLD
Ivan Patava Memorial Prize Grand Champion Waterfowl of Show	Call – White Duck, Terry & Linda Taylor, Burua QLD
Dempsey Bailey Memorial Prize Grand Champion Bantam of Show	Bantam Australian Langshan – Black Cockerel, O & J Glover, Narangba QLD
Hy-Line School Egg Laying Overall Champion	Bowenville State School, Bowenville QLD
Dairy Cattle	
Supreme Champion Dairy Cow	Eacham Vale Precious 7, Illawarra, Greg & Bronwyn English, Malanda QLD
Prime Beef	
Grand Champion Pen	Charolais cross steers, Noel and Elizabeth Cook, Goondiwindi QLD
Stud Beef	
The Warby Trophy Champion of Champions Breed Pair sponsored by SANTOS GLNG	Wakefield Amaze 38 (AI) (ET) (P/S), Greg & Jenny Frizell, Armidale NSW & 4 Ways North Star (P) 4 Ways Charolais, Inverell NSW
The Basingthwaight Trophy Champion of Champions Bull sponsored by SANTOS GLNG	DSK YXC NEW AGE N71 #, CR Knox and HD Alexander, Rocky Glen NSW
Champion of Champions Cow or Heifer sponsored by SANTOS GLNG	WAKEFIELD AMAZE 38 (AI) (ET) (P/S), Charolais, Greg & Jenny Frizell, Armidale NSW
Interbreed Champion (Small Breeds)	
Interbreed Champion Bull	Lik Lik Notorious, J M P Schiller, QLD
Interbreed Champion Cow or Heifer	JINGHI GULLY EVANILLA, Phil Labrie, QLD
Led Steer	
Grand Champion Led Steer	Travis Luscombe, Toowoomba QLD
Grand Champion Led Steer Carcass	Tenterfield High School, Tenterfield NSW
Dairy Goats	
Supreme Champion Dairy Doe of Show	Tollendool Karamella, Karen & Allen Coghill, Clermont QLD
Angora Goats	
Grand Champion Angora	Charly 080, Jacob Stevens, Wheatvale QLD
Sheep	
Supreme Champion Ram of Show	Plainview 30 Peter & Pene Hood, Pittsworth QLD
Supreme Champion Ewe of Show	Rochedal Dora, Rochedale SHS, Rochedale QLD
Supreme Champion Breeders Group of Show	Peter & Pene Hood, Pittsworth QLD
Quilts Across Queensland	
Best of Show	With the Stars, Margaret Shingles, Beachmere QLD
Fine Arts	
Grand Champion Entry - Cake Decorating	Sugar Craft, Mariza Vos, Brookfield QLD
Grand Champion Exhibit – Creative Art & Craft	Article made from Hand-spun Yarn, Belinda Daniel, St Lucia QLD
Champion Portrait of Show – Painting & Drawing	Stuart, Gordon Hooper, Windsor QLD
Champion Sculpture	Here's Trouble, Catherine Anderson, Karalee QLD
Champion Print – Photography	Spotted, Alicia Adamopoulos, Yeronga QLD
Agricultural Hall	
Champion Exhibitor – Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show	Tony Frohloff, Minden QLD
Apiculture	
Champion Honey of Show	Carl Cooper, Tingha NSW
Flower and Garden	
Mabel Burnett Award for Most Effective Display	Northern Districts Horticultural Society Inc, Chermside West QLD
Colin Campbell Memorial Award for Most Educational Display	The Bromeliad Society of QLD, Fortitude Valley, QLD
Champion Potted Plant of Show	Barry Kable, Capalaba QLD



RNA Charity Hostesses and Committee



2019 'High Tea' Fundraiser full of Fun and Friendship

Presented by Jane Thomas

The RNA is proud of the results achieved by its Charity Foundation 'High Tea' Fundraiser. Since inauguration in 2015, support for this event has been amazing and resulted in beneficial outcomes for many rural and isolated families affected by the harsh conditions currently being experienced throughout the state. [Click the link to the five year anniversary video.](#)

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, the 'High Tea' once again reached its optimum capacity, with over 450 ladies attending. As in previous years the country came to the city and was warmly welcomed. Fun and Friendship while Fundraising for Flood and Drought affected Rural Children are its dominant themes.

This 'Ladies Only' function has become one of Brisbane's most popular 'Meet and Greet' events between city and country. It is also particularly popular with those interested and/or actively involved in the beef cattle industry, who take the opportunity to come up to the RICC (Royal International Convention Centre) for champagne and scones while the men remain busy with cattle judging down in the main arena.

I include here an Ekka TV link which contains comments from ladies involved in this annual get-together: [link to Ekka TV interviews.](#)

"M.C." for the fifth continuous year was 'Landline' ABC Television commentator, Pip Courtney. Awarded an induction into the Rural Press Club's Rural Journalism Hall of Fame, Pip needs little introduction – having covered, for more than 30 years, Australian-wide issues that affect the bush.

Pip Courtney in her fifth role as "M.C."



RNA Fundraiser



Susan Harrison (BUSHkids Clinical Services Manager) addressing the 'High Tea' gathering

'BUSHkids' were chosen as this year's beneficiary. It is planned that all profits raised will contribute to the purchase of 'Telehealth Home Kits' for families in geographically isolated areas.

In Susan Harrison's address, she spoke of the role this organisation plays in providing services to regional, rural and remote areas of Queensland:

BUSHkids has worked with children, families and communities for more than 80 years.

Our aim back in the 1930's is still what we strive for today – that all Queensland children have every opportunity for a great future, regardless of the postcode their family lives in.

The Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme - BUSHkids was established by Sir Leslie Orme Wilson – then Governor of Queensland in response to the conditions he saw children experiencing in Western Queensland due to prolonged drought and the depression.

In the early days, we brought children to our coastal homes for a holiday and nutrition and medical, dental and therapy services.

We now have 140 staff and more than 50 volunteers providing services from 35 locations across Queensland – from Mt Isa to Inglewood.

BUSHkids provides a range of services including allied health – speech pathology, occupational therapy, psychology, early childhood intervention, parenting and family support and ekindy pods.

All BUSHkids services are provided free of charge to families. There are high levels of need for services for children in regional, rural and remote areas of Queensland.

BUSHkids aims to provide services locally and we continue to have the majority of our workforce based in regional, rural and remote locations.

We have undertaken research with the University of Queensland to develop a telehealth framework for BUSHkids – ensuring that our services are effective and suit the needs of children and families. Telehealth provides the opportunity to supplement our face-to-face services and to reach more geographically isolated families.

The funds raised here today will be used to create a loan library of in home telehealth kits so that therapy can be provided directly into the homes of geographically isolated children and families.

We have started piloting this approach. This video gives a glimpse into how this means of providing Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Psychology can look for children and families.

On behalf of everyone at BUSHkids and most importantly the children, families and communities we serve – thank you for your support.

The RNA is looking forward to liaising with BUSHkids and relaying back some of the interesting outcomes that this year's fundraising efforts will produce.

The afternoon's programme continued with a viewing of the EKKA Fashion Parade. This year the 'Nature in Bloom' theme was enhanced by two fabulously lit trees which flanked either side of the catwalk. An added attraction was the lively accompaniment from violinist Emma Beau - winner of this year's prestigious Queensland Music Award for the Country Section.

At the conclusion of the Fashion Parade everyone remained seated for the 'Live' Auction – conducted for the second year by 'real life' cattle auctioneer Sarah Packer.



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All eyes were on, Sarah Packer,
our 'Live' Auctioneer from Roma

Once again Sarah proved to be an amazing auctioneer!!!

Three major items went under her hammer:

- A Queensland Ballet 'Nutcracker' experience and personal meeting with 'Mao's Last Dancer' – Li Cunxin AO;
- A Brisbane Festival experience attending Opening and Closing Nights with an invitation into the 'Divine Marquee' on both occasions;
- A three night experience at Spicer's Peak Lodge, co-sponsored by Spicers Resorts and Wendy Allen (of MTA Travel, Toowoomba).

With outwardly professional ease (I am told Sarah finds staring into the faces of 450+ ladies somewhat daunting) our 27yr old auctioneer once again achieved amazing prices for the above items.

The outcome for this auction alone raised just over \$7,600.00.

Our most sincere thanks goes to our sponsors: Qld Ballet, the Brisbane Festival, Spicer's Resorts and Wendy Allen (MTA Travel). Also to those who most generously purchased or participated in this animated buying process.

It was time for 'High Tea'!!! With a delicious array of bite-sized morsels on offer and a topped-up beverage, 'Meeting and Greeting' started up again in earnest. Many chose to stand near the Harpist whose melodious chords created a gentle and relaxing backdrop for some intense chatting.

RNA Fundraiser



Lola Wilson (Perth) with
Miss North Qld Showgirl Georgia Hunter.

RNA Raffle Ticket sellers wandered round and were assisted by our ever-enthusiastic and confident 'Miss Showgirl' regional winners. This year's Country Life Miss Showgirl was won by Clare Webb (Burnett Sub Chamber - Monto) while Runner-up went to Brooke Currie (South West Sub Chamber - Taroom). Miss Popularity was awarded to Lyndal Tuttle (Central Highlands Sub Chamber - Clermont). At the time of the 'High Tea' winners were yet to be announced.



Also joining in our afternoon programme were four enthusiastic representatives from 'Girls Got Heart' (above). This is an amazing group of like-minded women bike riders, who aim to increase community awareness and services to isolated communities. On Exhibition Monday (12-08-19) 40 riders set out on the 'GGH' 2nd bi-annual, 750km charity ride. Their route from Brisbane, through Toowoomba-Dalby-Condamine-Roma to Meandarra was successfully reached by Friday 16th as they peddled 150km a day, visiting schools and local communities along the way. This year their efforts were directed towards LifeFlight.

RNA Fundraiser



Unfortunately, this year the Silent Auction table was a little forgotten amidst all the other activities that were going on. Several ladies commented that they had meant to return for a follow-up sighting and bid. Next year the 'Closing of Bids' announcement will be made more prominent.

As the afternoon drew to a close, winner's names appeared on the over-head screens and prizes were collected by the lucky recipients. We were delighted that even with the extended finishing time many were in no hurry to depart - happily chatting with friends or making last minute connections. The EKKA is all about people enjoying themselves and this was a wonderfully heartening atmosphere in which to conclude yet another successful RNA Charity 'High Tea'.

As with all fundraising activities, the event's success relies heavily upon the generosity of its supporters. I wish to sincerely thank all those who provided Raffle and Auction items. We hope this acknowledgement does not embarrass anyone of those who so willingly offered their support in this most important part of our fundraising activity:

- Amanda Stein - 'PandaPearls'
- Belinda West
- Brisbane Festival
- Chemist Warehouse (Redcliffe)
- Dean Rusling - 'Chalkos Art Foundry'

- Dymocks Childrens Charities
- Irma J Smith, Fashion House
- Jill Bridle
- Kerrie Richards - 'Merino Country'
- La Boite Theatre Company
- Laura Gangemi - 'Rudi Miro'
- Mark Ferguson - 'Wil Valor'
- Pia du Pradal, Fashion House
- Qld Ballet
- Renata Sekulic - '13 CABS'
- RNA
- Rod Bower - 'Continental Biscuit Manufacturers'
- Rydges (Fortitude Valley)
- Sacha Drake
- Spicer's Retreats
- Suzy McGavin - 'Cobram Estate'
- The Fairfax Family
- The McDonald Family - 'Super Butcher'
- Village Road Show Themeparks
- Wendy Allen - 'MTA Travel'
- Wendy Diggles - 'Wendy Louise Designs'

The Hostesses, Committee and I are both proud and delighted to announce that the RNA's 2019 'High Tea' Fundraiser achieved just over \$40,000.00.

We wish to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the success of this event and look forward to welcoming our family and fundraising friends (both new and old) to another exciting, enjoyable and entertaining EKKA event in 2020.

Best wishes until then,

Jane Thomas





Rona Furguson from Toowoomba,
Anne Douglas from Toowoomba and
Margie Dowe from Emu Park



Veronica Bassingthwaite from the
Sunshine Coast and Anne Green from Toowoomba



Diane Griffin from Yuleba and Suzie Hart from Jondaryan



Andrea Crothers from Dirranbandi
and Carla Miladinovic from Brisbane



Jacqui Geddes from Trinity Beach, Emma Freebairn from
Delungra NSW and Tina Clark from Wavell Heights



Christine Fyfe from Guyra NSW and
Mary Hollingworth from Glen Innes

RNA Fundraiser



Wendy Goodwin from Belbowrie and Angie Wentrup from The Gap



Belinda Macartney and Mary Anne Pidgeon both from Brisbane



Ashleigh Weidmann from Yeronga, Leigh Schmidhauser from Murgon, Fiona Cameron from Bollon and Deb Frecklington from Kingaroy



Kelly Tucker from Hawthorne and Rachael Walsh from Norman Park



Sonja O'Meara from Surat, Fiona O'Sullivan from Sarina and Hillary Kenny from Rockhampton



Veronica Brown from Toowoomba, Debbie and Amanda Stein both from Brisbane

RNA Fundraiser



Kimberly Wockner and Kate Cummins from Premise



Robyn Young, Garth Reid, Jane Thomas and Susan Harrison



Rebecca Carton from Brisbane, Sarah Packer from TopX Roma and Ameila Honner from Gunnedah



Louise Dann and Pam Cameron both from Brisbane



Lucy Coulson from Hendra and Prue Pateras from Hendra



Ali Stoneman from Clayfield, Flora Wehl from Wavell Heights and Alisa Evans from Wavell Heights

RNA Fundraiser



Arlie Felton-Taylor from ABC Qld Country Hour, Susan Harrison Clinical Services Manager for Bushkids, Vanessa Anderson and Carolyn Waller both from the Gold Coast



Kate Wilson from Calliope Station and Victoria Moffatt from R U Pastoral



Pia Du Pradal from Brookfield, Lyndal Tuttle Miss Central Highlands and Amanda Salisbury from Eidsvolds



Amy Shann from Clermont and Kristin Pearce from Wandoan



Dale Olsson from Highgate Hill and Pam Cameron from Ascot

'Blinged' Brownie



Successful cook book author and creator of Tenerife's celebrated Vanilla Zulu Culinary Adventures Chef Mel Alafaci hosted the Ekka's Cooking School presented by Spotlight this year. Chef Mel ran exclusive cooking classes and demonstrations in the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion over the 10 days of show. One of the sweets she taught Ekka goers to make was her famous Death by Chocolate 'Blinged' Brownie... and now you can make it too.

Ingredients

- 250g unsalted butter
- 200g dark chocolate
- 4 eggs (room temperature)
- 360g castor sugar
- 65g plain or gluten free flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 5g Ras el Hanout (1g cinnamon, 1g nutmeg and 1g cloves can be substituted for the Ras el Hanout)
- 85g Dutch cocoa
- Your choice of 'bling' (nuts, chopped strawberries, sliced pear and spices etc)

Brownie method

1. Melt the butter and chocolate together, either over a double boiler or in the microwave for about a minute. You will need to break the chocolate into pieces to help it melt more easily. Once melted, stir through until smooth and allow to cool slightly.
2. Beat the eggs and castor sugar together with a whisk on your machine until pale and fluffy.
3. Sift the plain flour and baking powder, Ras el Hanout and Dutch cocoa powder together.
4. Mix everything together to make a smooth batter. Spoon into a greased baking dish and then top with your choice of 'bling'. You can use nuts, chopped strawberries or even sliced pear and spices.
5. After blinging, bake in a moderate oven (180°C) for 20-25 minutes until firm on the outside but still very gooey on the inside...do not be tempted to overcook these, they are best when extremely gooey.

Chocolate bark method

1. Get your 'bling' ready for the chocolate bark. You can use flaked

almonds, dried blueberries and edible petals, however chopped up honey comb or similar will be just as good.

2. Melt one cup compound/cooking chocolate of your choice for one minute and then stir through with a small spatula until the chocolate is super smooth. Pour onto a piece of greased greaseproof paper, or a silicone mat (put this on a tray so it's easy to carry to the fridge or freezer), and 'paint' out evenly to about an A4 size. Make sure there are no thick or thin bits, aim to have this as even as possible.
3. While the chocolate is still wet, sprinkle with the toppings and then let it set in the fridge or the freezer. Once set you can cut into squares and then they are ready to use to make your chocolate house!

To assemble

Place a square of the fabulous brownie onto a plate, then take a tablespoon of fresh cream and make a swirl on the plate. Add a scoop of ice cream or whipped cream on top of the brownie and then close or top with the two chocolate tiles - if they break just use the broken chocolate shards. Serve and enjoy your round of applause!



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