

The official magazine of the RNA

SHOWBIZ

SPRING 2024

FESTIVAL
SEASON
BEGINS

EKKA
WRAP UP



RNA

THE ROYAL NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL AND
INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA



BRISBANE
SHOW
GROUNDS



ROYAL
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Ekka

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW



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AWARDS

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W E L C O M E

FROM RNA PRESIDENT DAVID THOMAS



Since 1876, the Ekka has brought the country to the city to celebrate agriculture and reward and recognise the achievements of our hard-working exhibitors across all of our sections.

Despite three days of very wet weather, the 2024 Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) attracted more than 346,000 people over nine days in August.

Attendance numbers were down 15 per cent on 2023, but still an impressive result given the rain event was so significant it led to the postponement of the iconic Grand Parade on People's Day for the first time in more than 40 years.

We had big crowds of almost 58,000 for the rescheduled Grand Parade on Saturday, which was 15 per cent more than the same day last year.

I would like to thank our RNA members and the people of Queensland for their unwavering support of the Show.

Rain or shine, Queenslanders came together to celebrate and support our state's agricultural sector and farming communities.

As a not-for-profit organisation, the RNA was again mindful of cost-of-living pressures, working hard with our ride and food operators to introduce new offers.

The new low-cost menu items for \$10 or under offered by more than 110 food outlets at the Show and introduction of Super Kids Sunday with 20 per cent off kids tickets and two for one rides all day in Kids Carnival, were well received.

We were also pleased to see growth in our competitions, which form the foundation of the Show.

Entry numbers were up by 20 to 40 per cent in several of the 57 competition sections, with more than 21,000 entries received.

Since 1876, the Ekka has brought the country to the city to celebrate agriculture and reward and recognise the achievements of our hard-working exhibitors across all of our sections.

We are very proud to stage this iconic event on behalf of the community each year and in 2026 we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Ekka – a remarkable legacy.

Thank you to our RNA members, exhibitors, competitors, judges and stewards, sponsors, volunteers, and visitors, for your continued support of the Show.

Thank you also to my fellow RNA Councillors and the RNA staff for their dedication and commitment.

We look forward to seeing you again at the 2025 Ekka.

David Thomas
RNA PRESIDENT

REMEMBERING ALASTAIR BASSINGTHWAIGHTE



The RNA has been saddened by the recent passing of former RNA Councillor Alastair Bassingthwaighte who made an extraordinary contribution, over many decades, to the success of the Ekka and the Australian cattle industry.

Alastair retired from the RNA Council in 2014 after 33 years following his appointment in 1981.

He first competed at the Ekka in 1969 and spent decades exhibiting his prize-winning animals from the Yarrowonga and Waco studs throughout the show rings of Australia.

One of the nation's most respected stud cattle breeders and industry leaders, he was also an active member of the RNA Beef Cattle, Boer Goats, Meat Hall and Joint Stock Committees.

His industry expertise was highly sought after and his contribution to the Australian cattle industry, particularly the Santa Gertrudis breed, was remarkable.

He was the longest serving member of the Santa Gertrudis Breeders' (Australian) Association for 46 years and served as its President from 1987 to 1989.

RNA Councillor and President of the Santa Gertrudis Breeders' (Australian) Association Liz Allen said Mr Bassingthwaighte's passing would be felt throughout the Santa Gertrudis community, both in Australia and overseas.

"We've lost a man of grand vision, a mentor to countless cattlemen and women across Australia," Ms Allen said.

"He was always generous with his time, guidance and advice.

"He was someone we all aspired to be like.

"His energy and contribution to the Santa Gertrudis breed was without peer."

The thoughts of all the Ekka family are with Mr Bassingthwaighte's wife Louise, children David, Andrew and Wendy and their families.

AROUND THE GROUNDS

A SIZZLING SUMMER OF MUSIC

GET READY FOR CHARLI XCX AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL MUSIC STARS

LISTEN OUT FAST FACTS

24,500

ATTENDEES

280

BRISBANE
SHOWGROUNDS
STAFF

31,000+

VODKA RED
BULLS POURED

37,500+

RTD CANS
SERVED

4,413L

OF BOTTLED
WATER SERVED

The Brisbane Showgrounds' summer music festival season has never looked so good, with a long list of international music stars set to take to the stage across multiple festivals.

The most notable is British pop star Charli XCX, who will headline St Jerome's Laneway Festival on Saturday 8 February.

Charli XCX, who has more than 20 million social media followers, is currently trending with her newly-released blockbuster album Brat which hit number one on the Australian ARIA Charts, plus many more around the world.

Also performing at Laneway is American musician and actor Joe Keery, best known for his role as Steve Harrington on the hit Netflix show Stranger Things.

The big names don't stop there, Korn will headline Good Things festival in December. They've sold more than 40 million albums worldwide and have two Grammys under their belt.

Also taking place in December is Wildlands festival, headlined by popular Australian DJ FISHER who is now based in the US after taking the world by storm and well-known American pop rapper Ice Spice, who has collaborated with Taylor Swift.

More than 100,000 people are expected to attend music festivals at the Brisbane Showgrounds between December and March, with 24,000 already turning up for Listen Out in October - the first music festival of the season.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

GOOD THINGS FESTIVAL

8 December

WILDLANDS FESTIVAL

31 December

ST JEROME'S LANEWAY FESTIVAL

8 February

KNOTFEST

2 March

For more information on each festival please visit the Brisbane Showgrounds What's On webpage.

Photo credit: Jordan Munns

MONTRACHET BACK IN BUSINESS



Iconic fine-dining restaurant Montrachet has re-opened its doors in King Street, with a new owner at the helm.

After going into administration in mid-2024, the restaurant welcomed patrons back in early October.

Michelin-trained chef Clément Chauvin, who runs the award-winning French restaurant Les Bistronomes in Canberra, purchased the establishment.

QUICK Q&A WITH CLÉMENT

Why did you decide to take on Montrachet?

Montrachet is an institution in Brisbane. It has such a great name, great reputation, 20 years of history and really beloved by the Brisbane population. When I heard the news that the restaurant was for sale it was a no-brainer for me.

Have you introduced any new dishes to the menu that are a must try?

I have kept some of the dishes that were classic for Montrachet such as the crab soufflé and bouillabaisse and do my own version of them. I've also started to introduce some of my signature dishes like the beef wellington and passionfruit soufflé with a chilli explosion.

Have you received a nice welcome since the restaurant re-opened?

Absolutely, the Brisbane population welcome so far has been overwhelming. It is such a beautiful thing to meet new customers and get to know the regular customers.

Click here to check out Montrachet's menu.



NEW APPOINTMENT

Kirstin Hinchliffe has been appointed as the RNA's new General Manager of Human Resources, following the retirement of Barbara Perrott.

A seasoned HR professional, Kirstin brings 17 years of experience to the RNA with her most recent position as the General Manager, People and Safety (Qld & NT) for the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The RNA welcomes Kirstin and pays tribute to Barbara who retired after 10 years of dedicated service.

Barbara joined the RNA in 2014 after 40 years in the Queensland Public Sector bringing a wealth of experience in organisational change and development, leadership, culture and human resource management.

The RNA benefitted enormously from her expertise over the past decade and the major impact she has made to the organisation's culture change program, we wish her the very best in her retirement.

AG SHOWS AUSTRALIA APPOINTS NEW CHAIR



An award-winning global agri-food industries leader has been appointed the new independent Chair of Ag Shows Australia (ASA).

Jacqueline Wilson-Smith from the Sunshine Coast replaces retiring Chair Dr Rob Wilson AM who has guided the ASA since its inception in 2016.

Ms Wilson-Smith brings extensive experience over 30 years across a range of agri-food industries and membership-based organisations including Fortune 500

company McCormick and Company Inc, Kraft Foods and Gourmet Garden.

She is currently a Director of a range of organisations including Meat & Livestock Australia, AgriFutures, Travellers Choice, Food Agility Co-Operative Research Centre, Apples & Pears Australia and the Sustainable Innovation Company.

ASA represents over 580 shows nationwide and works to engage, influence and promote the essential value of Australian agriculture.

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RAIN OR SHINE, QUEENSLANDERS SHOW UP FOR THEIR BELOVED EKKA

Despite wet weather, Queenslanders came out in support of the 2024 Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) from August 10-18.

Queensland's largest event attracted more than 345,000 people over the nine days - an impressive result given the impact of three days of very wet weather.

The rain event was so significant it led to the postponement of the iconic Grand Parade for the first time in more than 40 years on People's Day, to Saturday.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said the support for this year's Show was inspiring as tens of thousands of Queenslanders braved the rain and showed their love for their cherished Ekka.

"Rain or shine, Queenslanders came together to celebrate country spirit in the city

and support the state's agricultural sector and farming communities," Mr Christou said.

"Queenslanders are known for their resilience, and I thank them for their wonderful show of support.

"We enjoyed strong pre-sales and we were on track for 400,000 people through the gates, but the wet weather event meant our attendance figures were 15 per cent down on the 2023 result."

Mr Christou said the RNA's decision this year to offer a budget-conscious Ekka including a range of food and ride offers were well received.

"As a not-for-profit organisation, the RNA was very mindful of rising cost of living pressures and this year we worked hard with our ride and food operators to ensure

that Ekka could be enjoyed on any budget," he said.

"The first time ever introduction of Super Kids Sunday with its 20 per cent off kids tickets and two for one rides all day in Kids Carnival was popular with a final day crowd of more than 30,000 people through the gates.

"Show goers also welcomed our new value food bundles and low-price menu items across 110 Ekka food vendors and the return of the two for one ride special every day of Show," he said.

Visitors enjoyed all the traditional and unique experiences such as the beloved competitions, live entertainment including the night show and fireworks, animals, rides and showbags, plus the nation's finest food and wine.

COUNTRY SPIRIT
CITY HEART

Ekka

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

AUGUST 10-18

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

We couldn't have done it without you

GRAND CHAMPION PARTNERS



CHAMPION PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



COMMUNITY PARTNER



MAJOR PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS



If you, or someone you know, would like to be involved as a sponsor for Ekka in 2025 please contact our team

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VOICE OF EKKA BEEF WEEK A SHOW LEGEND

The RNA was thrilled to honour Keith McRobert as the 2024 Ekka Legend, following an association with the Show spanning over 70 years including 33 years as a Beef Week ring announcer.

Over 70 years ago, the Stock and Station Agent and stud Stock Auctioneer started at Ekka as a Dairy Exhibitor.

Keith then progressed to RNA Stewarding and Honorary Council Steward roles in the Show's beef competitions, particularly in the Santa Gertrudis ring.

He then settled into the role of announcing the Champion of Champions in Ekka Beef Week for 33 years.

For over 15 years Keith led the Parades of Livestock around the ring in the Main Arena both at the conclusion of the beef cattle judging and during the Grand Parade on People's Day.

Keith also donated his time as one of the leading auctioneers at the annual Stewards Charity Auction on Ekka Friday, raising funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation.

The Ekka Legend Award was introduced in 2004 and just 18 people have been the recipient of the RNA's most prestigious honour.

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

"Keith McRobert has been an integral part of the Ekka for an incredible 70 plus years," Mr Thomas said.

"The Voice of Ekka Beef Week has been a mainstay of the Show's Beef competitions.

"The Ekka's Stud Beef and Led Steer Rings are highly regarded competitions and Keith McRobert has been instrumental in maintaining this excellence."

Mr Thomas said Keith's voice, which is synonymous with the Santa Gertrudis Ring and Champion of Champions Judging, signals the arrival of Ekka each year.

"Not only has Keith run the Beef Competitions to the highest standard but he has mentored new stewards and given much of his time at philanthropic Ekka events," Mr Thomas said.

"Remarkably Keith has barely missed one Ekka in almost 82 years – it is his cherished place where he connects with family and friends.

"We honour and thank Keith McRobert for his long term and invaluable contribution to the Royal Queensland Show over many years."

THE BEST OF QUEENSLAND ON SHOW



Our competitions are the heart of the Ekka, rewarding and recognising our skilled exhibitors since the very first Show in 1876.

In 2024 we saw a growth in our competitions, with entry numbers up by 20 to 40 per cent in several of the 57 competition sections.

We received more than 21,500 entries from 4,663 national and international exhibitors, all vying for their chance to win a prestigious Grand Champion title and coveted blue ribbon.

Our place getters shared in a total prize

pool of \$751,426 – a 11.3% increase on 2023.

It wouldn't be possible to run our competitions to the highest standards without the expert knowledge of our judges and stewards.

In 2024, more than 800 judges and stewards, including nine international judges, were appointed to ensure the integrity of our competitions.

From big beef cattle to bush ballads and perfect preserves, we can't wait to see the diverse range of talent on display in 2025.

2024 FAST FACTS

21,595
competition entries

4,663
exhibitors

3,714
prized animals

1,401
cakes

674
education competition entries



ENTER THIS ICONIC SHOW FAVOURITE!

Go big or gourd home, with entries now open for the Ekka's 2025 Giant Pumpkin Competition supported by Pillow Talk.

There is \$3,400 in prize money up for grabs, plus a bonus \$1,000 for the heaviest pumpkin over 350kg.

Judging will take place at the Brisbane

Showgrounds on Saturday 8 March 2025, with the competition held outside of the August Ekka dates to take advantage of the premium pumpkin growing season.

For more information and to order your FREE Giant Atlantic pumpkin seeds please [click here](#).

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!

2024 FAST FACTS

3.5 TONNES
of fireworks

14 DESIGNERS
in the Natural Fibres Fashion Parades
presented by Channel 7

105
performances on the
Multicultural Plaza Music Stage

17
marching bands (a record number!)

\$6,000+
donated to the RNA Foundation from the
Animal Nursery feed cups



From a spectacular night show to a stunning fashion parade and plenty of farmyard animals to meet, there was much to see and do at the 2024 Ekka.

The Main Arena lit up in a dazzling display of colour each night for the NEON NITES themed EkkaNITES, watched by around 180,000 people over the nine days.

As fireworks lit up the sky, performers were dazzling on the ground with mesmerising displays involving fire, pyrotechnic, and LED effects.

The night show, which invoked an atmosphere of nostalgia, also featured

the old-fashioned Human Cannon Ball, Cobb & Co procession celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the stagecoach that connected the old world with mail and supplies, and Country Music sensation Tania Kernaghan.

Meanwhile, models hit the Ekka runway three times a day for the Natural Fibres Fashion Parades presented by Channel 7, showcasing stunning pieces made by 14 established and emerging Queensland designers – 12 of them new to the Show.

Another highlight was the Ekka's final weekend of fun, with two of the biggest

names in children's entertainment, Emma Memma and Bluey, taking to the stage.

Kids also enjoyed the very popular Animal Nursery over the nine days, home to more than 550 adorable animals including shaggy Highland Cows, goats, sheep, puppies, lambs and more.

There was also the quirky goat yoga, sheepdog demonstrations, a reptile show, musicians galore and so much more keeping the Ekka crowds entertained.

Planning is already underway for all the fun of Ekka 2025, so stay tuned!

2024 GRAND

CATEGORY	WINNER
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND STUDENT FERMENTED BEVERAGES	
CHAMPION FERMENTED BEVERAGE	Flagstone State Community College – Triple LBJ
APICULTURE	
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR	Arborwood Honey
AUSTRALIAN YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE	
YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE FINALISTS	Concrete Cowboys – Ella Christie, Harry Hunter, Fraser McLardy and Becci Roellgen
BUSH POETRY	
OVERALL CHAMPION	Gerry Mannion
CAKE DECORATING	
GRAND CHAMPION	Emerald Stewart – Themed Cake – Halloween Styled Pumpkin
CANINE	
BEST IN SHOW	CH. BEAGELEE THE IRON THRONE(AI) – Fox Terrier (Wire)
CAT	
SUPREME ALL BREEDS CAT OF SHOW	Fiona Cooper – COOLCOONS SECRET BUSINESS
CREATIVE ART & CRAFT	
GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBIT	David Brown (Woodwork)
DAIRY CATTLE	
SUPREME CHAMPION DAIRY COW	MJ & GJ Henry – White Park Minnie 47
DAIRY GOATS	
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR	Karen & Allan Coghill
EDUCATION ON SHOW	
CHAMPION SCHOOL OF SHOW	Upper Brookfield State School
FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS	
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR (OPEN)	Bradley Hinze
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR (INTERMEDIATE)	Ben Wickham
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR (NOVICE)	Marcus Murray
FISH	
GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBIT OF SHOW	Peter Ford
HORSE	
CHAMPION GENTLEMAN RIDER	Rhys Stanley
CHAMPION LADY RIDER	Grace Berry
HORTICULTURAL DISPLAYS	
MOST EFFECTIVE DISPLAY	Orchid Societies South East Queensland
LED STEER	
GRAND CHAMPION LED STEER	Tookawhile Show Steers, MF & NJ Nicholls
GRAND CHAMPION LED STEER CARCASS	Julie Gillies/ Ella Cannon
NATURAL FIBRES & WEARABLE ART	
OVERALL CHAMPION	Michelle Clarke
Paddock to Palate	
CLASS 37 OVERALL WINNER	Juandah Grazing
CLASS 38 OVERALL WINNER	Rosedale Livestock Partnership
CLASS 39 OVERALL WINNER	Bonyi Grazing
CLASS 40 OVERALL WINNER	Glenisa Cattle Co.

CHAMPIONS

CATEGORY	WINNER
PAINTING & DRAWING	
CHAMPION PORTRAIT OF SHOW	Gordon Hooper – Piercing
PHOTOGRAPHY	
CHAMPION PRINT	Martin Riley – Fenceline
CHAMPION DIGITAL IMAGE	Stacey Nicholas – Illumishrooms
POULTRY	
SUPREME GRAND CHAMPION	J. Porter & Family
PRIME BEEF	
GRAND CHAMPION PEN	Stanhope Cattle Co
PRIME LAMBS	
OVERALL CHAMPION PEN OF THREE LAMBS	Culgoa Ultrawhite and Dorper Studs
OVERALL PADDOCK TO PLATE CHAMPION	Bellevue Grazing Company Pty Ltd
QUILTS ACROSS QUEENSLAND	
BEST QUILT OF SHOW	Lyn Crump – Bev 10-08
RAISING HY-LINE HENS	
OVERALL CHAMPION	Livingstone Christian College
SHEEP	
SUPREME CHAMPION BREEDS GROUP OF SHOW	Milton & Hall
SCULPTURE	
CHAMPION SCULPTURE	Equestrian Fusion by David Ellsworth
SHOWJUMPING	
CHAMPION RIDER	Hayley Morris
STUD BEEF	
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS BULL	BP & MJ Scheiwe (Brendale Tab (P) (r/F))
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS HEIFER	Johnson-Iseppi, Kirrily (GK Red 624 Ruba Q5 (AI) (AMF) (MAF) (NHF) (OSF) GK Q05)
STUDENT MADE CHEESE	
CHAMPION CHEESE OF SHOW - WHITE MOULD	St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School – Lily Carew
CHAMPION CHEESE OF SHOW - BLUE MOULD	Caboolture SHS - Jai
THOROUGHbred & STANDARDbred	
CHAMPION STANDARDbred	Verona Begadon - Super Falcon
SUPREME CHAMPION THOROUGHbred	Leanne Jones - Bon's A Pearla
WOODCHOP AND SAWING	
CHAMPION AXEMAN OF SHOW	Brayden Meyer
WOOL	
GRAND CHAMPION MERINO FLEECE OF SHOW	Peter Hacker (Roselea)
YOUNG JUDGES	
MOST SUCCESSFUL COMPETITOR	Amy Turner
YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE	
EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENT	Caboolture State High School

EKKA 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



The Human Cannon Ball takes flight



Student competitors take part in the Grand Parade



People enjoying Sideshow Alley



Baking cookies in the Ag Education Hall Grain activation



The competitors in the Flower Beard competition

In the Cradle a Chick activation a young girl gets cosy with a hatchling



Mother and daughter enjoy the rides in the Kids Carnival



Junior competitor cracks the whips in the Whipcracking competition



Young boy feeds the goats in the Animal Nursery



Female competitors in the sawing competition

RNA 'HIGH TEA' FUNDRAISER 2024



The RNA's 'High Tea' Fundraiser was held on Friday 9th August. Over 400 ladies, from near and far, turned up to enjoy an afternoon of 'meeting and greeting', while raising funds to support children and their families who live in outback Queensland. The event, in its eighth year, raised just over \$46,000.00 through a variety of supportive options.

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

For those of you who are not aware of where this event's fundraising has been directed, here is the list of organisations/charities which have benefited since Inauguration in 2015:

2015 Longreach & Charleville Schools of Distance Education;

2016 Mt Isa & Charters Towers Schools of Distance Education;

2017 'Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School' now known as the 'Queensland Children's Hospital School';

2018 'Western Alliance';

2019 'BUSHkids';

2020/21 Cancelled due to Covid

2022 'Outback Futures'

2023 'BushED'

After an hour of 'meeting and greeting', everyone took their seats before the arrival of the Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeanette Young AC PSM.



Pip Courtney our "M.C." for seven consecutive years

Pip Courtney ('Landline' ABC Television commentator and 2011 inductee into the Rural Press Club's Rural Journalism Hall of Fame) opened the formal part of the proceedings by introducing the Governor who spoke of "the immense spirit of compassion and togetherness" – so important to the core of the event's ethos.

The Governor's address was followed by a presentation from 'Outback Futures'.

Link to Outback Futures VIDEO

This year the Committee chose to re-visit 'Outback Futures' in order for initiatives, commenced in 2022, to be extended. Selena Gomersall again spoke on behalf of this not-for-profit charity.

In Selena's own words:

When I first started working in the outback, a grazier's wife said to me she felt like they should be called the 'invisible people'. "Have you ever driven through remote Qld?" she asked? "... You can drive for hours, and see only letterboxes and gateways. You rarely see people as you drive those lonstraight roads. We rarely feel truly seen" Outback Futures has been very much about walking with remote communities to ensure they feel truly seen and valued when it comes to their unique mental health and wellbeing challenges.

This RNA High Tea has previously supported an Outback Futures initiative to understand and shift the wellbeing needs



Governor of Queensland,
Her Excellency the
Honourable Doctor
Jeannette Young AC PSM



Selena Gomersall representing
'Outback Futures'

CHARITY FUNDRAISER

and outcomes for our remote children through the use of a remarkable digital tool called Rumbles Quest, to begin developing outback specific, wellbeing prevalence data for kids – ground breaking work! and today's event is resourcing us to take the next step, by beginning to deliver to remote families, through the Mt Isa School of the Air, an initiative called "Resilient Kids". This initiative supports our rural and remote children to understand the concept of resilience and build a resilience tool kit. – Most importantly - it is an initiative that has been specifically and carefully designed with and for the bush!

So often, programs, initiatives, and services are designed for a city context and are then simply prescribed onto a bush culture. ... and it doesn't work! – In fact it ensures our bush Aussies continue to feel invisible, SO, whilst this "Resilient Kids" work utilizes concepts and tools that are evidence based across the globe – Outback Futures has translated them to speak to our bush kids

directly, - like our little friend Charlie, who I'd like to introduce you to:

[Link to Charlie VIDEO](#)

The Resilient Kids project will help hundreds of bush kids like Charlie to understand who is there for them, particularly when things are tough . . .

Someone once said that. "If someone really wants to see you, they will find a reason, they will find a way, and they will make the effort". We know the reason, and today you are part of 'finding a way' and 'making an effort'. Together, with this bush specific, "Kids resilience" initiative, we are working to shift the landscape such that our next generation in the bush, no longer feel invisible, but feel truly seen and valued, and are equipped with the tools to better manage their wellbeing to become resilient Australians.

The 'High Tea' event also welcomed Lyn French and Tracey Alder from 'BushED' – the 2023 charity recipients. These two ladies set

up an information booth, where questions could be asked and information passed on. Everyone always greatly appreciates being brought up-to-date with what has happened with the previous year's funds.

While the main aim of the 'High Tea' is to raise funds to support rural and isolated families, 'Fun and Friendship with Friends and Family' is also a major drawcard for all who attend. Ladies travel from near and far, making early August a regular time for catching up with some who they haven't seen for a year.

I include here a link which contains photographs taken during the afternoon's festivities: [Link to photography](#)

The traditional EKKA Fashion Parade is always a highlight of the afternoon's programme. This year, for the first time, some of the models danced their way up the catwalk, providing an upbeat and exciting aspect to this popular Ekka tradition.



Fun and Friendship with Family and Friends





Our 'Live' Auctioneer, Georgia Ockerby, in action

At the conclusion of the Fashion Parade everyone remained seated for the 'Live' Auction. We were delighted to welcome livestock auctioneer Georgia Ockerby, who came all the way from Tasmania. Georgia's flight expenses were most generously covered by her workplace: 'Nutrien Ag Solutions', situated at Bridgewater in Tasmania.

Six major items went under her hammer:

- * One week's accommodation in a 3 Bedroom Penthouse at 'Costa Nova'. This Sunshine Beach venue features huge ocean, beach and coastline views and was donated by the Fairfax Family;
- * A seven night stay at the Sunshine Coast. This lovely beach house, donated by Kate McIntyre, can accommodate up to 6 couples and is perfect for an idyllic beach-break with family or friends;
- * Diamond Spectacle Chain, donated by Patti Sedgwick owner of Sedgwick Antique and Estate Jewellery. The oblong trace chain is set with a single bezel set brilliant cut diamond of 0.20 carat;
- * Acrylic painting on canvas donated by artist – Marina Little;
- * Framed photography donated by photographer – Allie Lee;
- * Dinner for 3 at 'SK Steak & Oyster'. Hosted by Danny Thomas, this will be an evening of superb wine and food – donated by LAWD.

This year the 'Live' Auction raised an outstanding \$15,950.00.

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 in earnest. Accompanied by vocal music, guests took the opportunity to rekindle old friendships while creating new. The EKKA is all about people enjoying themselves and this event always manages to launch everyone into happy social mingling.

Patti Sedgwick, of Sedgwick Antique and Estate Jewellery, again set up display tables and sold some beautiful antique jewellery items to ladies wishing to take home a memento. This has become an interesting and eye-catching addition to our fundraiser and we look forward to welcoming Patti and her team back in 2025.

Raffle Ticket buying was again most generously supported – raising over \$12,600.00. It was such a colourful, interesting and varied array of prizes.

As with all fundraising activities, the event's success relies heavily upon the generosity of its supporters. I wish to sincerely thank



Some tempting offerings

CHARITY FUNDRAISER

all those who provided Raffle and Live 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:

Alison Chandler – Floral Bouquets

Allie Lee – Framed photography

Andrea Crothers – ‘Fat Cow’ Restaurant voucher

‘Belle Follie’ – Designer items

‘Deep Grey’ – Portrait photography with Lana Noir

Ellen Gett – Basket of ‘Ariat’ products

Kate McIntyre – Sunshine Coast Accommodation

Kate Warby – Silver and Resin Bangle

‘Kathron Dry Cleaners’ – Voucher

‘Kuhl-Cher’, King St. – Dine-in voucher

‘La Boite Theatre Company’

LAWD Real Estate

Marina Little – Painting

‘Mary Evelyn Millinery’

‘Nutrien Ag Solutions’ (Bridgewater, Tasmania)

‘Pamela’s Pantry’ – Baskets of Goodies

Patti Sedgwick – ‘Sedgwick Antique and Estate Jewellery’

RNA

‘Rydgcs’ – Fortitude Valley

Sarah McCamley – ‘La Cache A Vin’ Restaurant voucher

‘The Bathhouse’, Albion – Wellness Experience

The Cotter Family – RNA Woodchop Experience

The Fairfax Family

The Hostesses, Committee and I are both proud and delighted that the RNA’s 2024 ‘High Tea’ raised over \$46,000.00.

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 2025.

**Best wishes until then,
Jane Thomas**



RNA Charity Committee

CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Nannette Frederick from Sydney, Lola Wilson from Perth and Janette Boneham from Brisbane



Singer Emma Irene and pianist Dan Khoury



Allie Lee (Donation) and Kristy Page from Brookfield



Jane Crombie, Bettina Ferrando and Di Freshney (Hostess) from Brisbane



Claire Mactaggart from Duaringa and Rebecca McDonald from Goondiwindi



Joan Taeffe, Julie Taeffe-Hill and Kathy Mapp from Brisbane



Adrianna Pott, Kelly Ostwald, Sophie and Megan Morgan and Andrea Crothers

CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Cindy Coggan from Meandarra, Auctioneer Georgia Ockerby from Tasmania and Emily Coggan from Meandarra



Lindsay Jesson from Teneriffe, Jenny McLeod from Newstead, Mandy Vincent from Hamilton, Phoebe Dunn from Stafford, Amy Vincent from Hamilton and Morna Allen from Hendra



Leys Moore, Sophia Cameron, Carolyn Waller and Mary-Caroline Van Paassen



Erin Bledsoe from Clayfield, Sally Bledsoe from Hamilton and Patricia Johnson from China



Wendy Dingles (Donation), Rowena Hogan, Di Griffin and Julie Gee



Hannah Hardy from Brisbane, Carly Considine from Canberra and Grace Gerathy from Tamworth



Adrianna Pott from Mundubbera, Georgia Sloss from Dalby and Kym Turner from Brisbane



Gina Fairfax AC, Jane Thomas, Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM, Alison Chandler, Margie Adnam



ROYAL QUEENSLAND AWARDS



THE SEARCH IS ABOUT TO START!

Entries will soon begin opening for the 2025 Royal Queensland Awards (RQA) competitions.

The RQA unearths the nation's top food and beverage products each year through eight competition sections - cheese and dairy; ice cream, gelato and sorbet; branded beef; branded lamb; wine; beer; distilled spirits; and aquaculture.

The first competition to open is the Royal Queensland Beer Awards on Monday 18 November. This year will see the introduction of an exciting new class - *keep an eye on our social media when the competition opens to find out what it is.*

The Royal Queensland Beer Awards is also currently calling for volunteer stewards, with duties including bringing beers out for judging, organising glassware and pouring beers.

If you have an interest in beer and want to network with industry professionals, then click here for more information and to submit your expression of interest by Monday 11 November 2024.

The other RQA competition to open for entries this year in early December is aquaculture.

It was first introduced in 2024 and will feature three classes - Small and Large

Barramundi and Cooked Tiger Prawns.

ENTRIES OPEN

- BEER** - Monday 18 November
- AQUACULTURE** - Early December
- CHEESE & DAIRY** - January
- ICE CREAM, GELATO & SORBET** - January
- BRANDED BEEF** - January
- BRANDED LAMB** - January
- WINE** - February
- DISTILLED SPIRITS** - February

THYME & MANDARIN GIN FIZZ

INGREDIENTS

- 50 Pennant Distillery Autumn Gin
- 50 ml mandarin juice
- 15 ml lemon juice
- 1 egg white
(for the vegan version, just whisk the drained water from a glass of unsalted chickpeas with a teaspoon of baking powder to make perfect egg whites!)
- 40 ml of sparkling water
- Ice cubes
- 3 Thyme sprigs
- Dehydrated mandarin segment

Enjoy a refreshing Thyme & Mandarin Gin Fizz this spring. The citrus and herbal combination make for a light, easy drinking cocktail. We recommend using a Royal Queensland Distilled Spirit Awards medal-winning gin such as the Pennant Distillery Autumn Gin which took home a gold medal.

METHOD

- Combine the gin, lemon and mandarin juice and egg white in a shaker.
- Shake for about 30 seconds.
- Pour ice into the shaker and shake again for about 2 minutes until the shaker is very cold.
- Strain into a glass.
- Top up with fresh sparkling water.
- Garnish with fresh thyme and dehydrated mandarin

ROYAL QUEENSLAND BEER AWARDS

ENTRIES OPEN 18 NOVEMBER 2024



SHOWCASING
AUSTRALIA'S BEST



WE REQUIRE SKILLED
JUDGES AND STEWARDS
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