THE 'HIGH TEA'

FUNDRAISER RETURNS

The RNA's 'High Tea' Fundraiser returned with a BANG!!!

Support for this event has been amazing - with just over $228,000.00 having been raised since its inauguration in 2015. Funds are used to assist rural and isolated families affected by the harsh conditions regularly experienced throughout our state.

After two years in mothballs (due to the Covid pandemic), many say that this year's event was the best yet. Capped at 400 guests, ladies came from near and far. Fun and Friendship while Fundraising for Rural Children are its dominant themes and there was certainly plenty of Fun, Friendship and Fundraising.

'Outback Futures' was chosen as this year's beneficiary. Its work in rural regions is becoming legendary and the monetary response from guests supported the high regard in which this organisation is held.

Link to VIDEO of Lucy

This year's event raised just over $41,000.00. The RNA is looking forward to liaising with 'Outback Futures' and relaying back, in 2023, some of the positive outcomes that this year's fundraising efforts have helped produce.

Pip opened the event by introducing a performance from 'Camerata' - Qld's Chamber Orchestra. The quintet performed to perfection

Our ever supportive "M.C." (for the sixth 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 opened the event by introducing a performance from 'Camerata' - Qld's Chamber Orchestra. The quintet performed to perfection "Apis Australis" - meaning "Australian Honey Bee". Composed by John Rotar, this lively rendition was an invigorating way to open the event.

An address from our Governor followed Camerata's musical performance. Everyone is used to seeing Her Excellency in the role as CHO (Qld's Chief Health Officer) when she used to address us daily about Covid management. It was a real eye-opener hearing her speak equally proficiently about several rural issues.

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

Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeanette Young AC PSM.

The afternoon's programme then featured a viewing of the traditional EKKA Fashion Parade. This year's 'Stories of Style' theme was enhanced by a dramatic backdrop of rural scenes created by the RNA's media team.

At the conclusion of the Fashion Parade everyone remained seated for the 'Live' Auction. We were delighted to be able to welcome professional cattle/sheep auctioneer Bernadette Binnie (from McCulloch Agencies, Tamworth).

Three 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 three night stay at Skyline Farm Rosevale, donated by Cameron Crouch. This rural holiday getaway can accommodate up to 16 guests and is equipped with everything needed for an idyllic stay with family or friends;

* Limited Edition Print – 'Feeding Frenzy' by Ida Montague. Ida is renowned for her dramatic black and white, charcoal/graphite drawings.

Bernadette Binnie, our 'Live' Auctioneer, in action.

Tension mounted with all eyes on Bernadette Binnie.

With professional ease Bernadette faced 400+ ladies - achieving amazing prices for the above items. Bidding was robust, with several ladies vying for their desired prize.

The outcome for this auction alone raised just over $11,000.00.

Our most sincere thanks goes to our donors and 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 in earnest.

Camerata's quintet continued to perform, providing a lovely ambience, while our Governor mingled with guests before her departure.

This 'Ladies Only' function has become one of Brisbane's most popular 'Meet and Greet' events between city and country.

Left to right: Courtney Talbot, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeanette Young AC PSM, Fabienne Cooke, Jodie Bignall

It is also particularly popular with those interested and/or actively involved in the beef cattle industry. These ladies take the opportunity to come up to the RICC (Royal International Convention Centre) for champagne and scones while the men are kept busy with cattle judging down in the main arena.

I include here an Ekka TV link which contains comments from ladies involved in our annual get-together:

Link to Ekka TV interviews

RNA Raffle Ticket sellers wandered round receiving a most enthusiastic and generous welcome. As the afternoon drew to a close, the winning numbers appeared on the over-head screens and prizes were collected by the lucky recipients. We were delighted that 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 it was a wonderfully heartening atmosphere right up to the conclusion of the event.

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 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:

Andrea Crothers – Restaurant voucher

'Camerata' – Qld's Chamber Orchestra

Cameron Crouch – 'Skyline Farm', Rosevale

'Cobram Estate' – Suzy McGavin

'Galah Press' – Annabelle Hickson

Ida Montague – Limited Edition Print

'La Boite Theatre Company'

'Pamela's Pantry' – Baskets of goodies

'Q Camel' Products – Lauren Brisbane

RNA

The Fairfax Family

The Hostesses, Committee and I are both proud and delighted that the RNA's 2022 'High Tea' Fundraiser raised $41,011.00.

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 2023.

Best wishes until then,

Jane Thomas

Left to right: Aiko Neligan from Brisbane,
Jessica Mann from Inverell and Amelia Honner from Gunnedah

Left to right: Gina Fairfax, Jane Thomas, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor
Jeanette Young AC PSM, Margot Warby and Margie Adnam

Left to right: Holly Naughton, Rowena Hogan,
Piper Christensen, Bron Christensen
and Robyn Young

Left to right: Kerri Phillips, Helen Barnard and Belinda Litster from Brisbane

Left to right: Garth Reid, Pia du Pradal and Robyn Young

Left to right: Sally Bledsoe, Flora Wehl and Alisa Evans from Brisbane

Left to right: Krystal Ruttley from Ipswich and Kate Wilson from Brisbane

Left to right: Mary-Caroline van Paassen, Leys Moore and Erin Bledsoe

Left to right: Georgie Gibson from Dalby, Susie Grant from Jimbour and Anna Harrison from Mungindi

Left to right: Hannah and Claire Warriner from Brisbane with Anna Jackson also from Brisbane

Left to right: Edwina Edwards and Josephine O'Brien from Brisbane

Left to right: Jane Thomas, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeanette Young AC PSM and Governor of Queensland and Rowena Hogan from Toowoomba