

SHOWBIZ

SPRING 2016

All day dining
King Street comes to life

Inside the
139th Ekka

Charity Fundraiser
*for the children
of the bush*



RNA

THE ROYAL NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL AND
INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND



BRISBANE
SHOW
GROUNDS®



ROYAL
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CONVENTION CENTRE
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ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW



The official magazine of the RNA



RNA Charity Fundraiser

Palate

Cover: Hunter Price from Surat

Welcome

The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) once again brought the country to the city for a 10 day celebration of Queensland agriculture and the critical role it plays in our everyday lives.



Almost 400,000 people attended Queensland's largest and most loved annual event, held at the historic Brisbane Showgrounds from August 5 - 14.

I am pleased to say the 139th Ekka saw an increase in attendance numbers on last year. This year the RNA offered families the best value ever with the first two day pass in the show's history introduced, along with dedicated two for one ride and food days - plus 15 per cent off all online tickets up until Ekka eve.

We also welcomed The Old Museum back to Ekka this year, which formed a brand new precinct featuring The Flower and Garden Exhibition presented by Envy Lawn "Grown for Life" and Quilts Across Queensland presented by Queensland Quilters. It was buzzing with a hive of activity ranging from student garden installations and community and garden society displays to outdoor dining and stunning quilts. The museum was built for the RNA in 1891 and symbolises the importance of heritage and legacy.

The spectacular world-class night show, EkkaNITES, was once again a highlight. The nightly show included the traditional elements like the woodchop and sheepdogs as well as the Hot Wheels High Octane Show featuring the world first Sphere of Death and V8 drift cars, culminating in a spectacular fireworks finale.

Once again the state-of-the-art Royal International Convention Centre played home to high end fashion, the critically acclaimed Royal Queensland Steakhouse presented by JBS and the

Agricultural Hall. It also housed a selection of popular competitions including Fine Arts and Education on Show.

Competitions remain at the heart of the Ekka. Since the very first show in 1876, the Ekka has been rewarding and recognising those dedicated to producing the best of the best. This year we welcomed more than 21,000 entries across 13,000 classes in 48 competition sections.

A special thank you must go to our RNA members, Ekka exhibitors, competitors, judges and stewards, volunteers and visitors. I would also like to thank my fellow RNA Councillors and the RNA staff for making this year's Ekka such a wonderful event.

One of the competition highlights was the beef cattle judging, unofficially known as Ekka Beef Week. More than 1,600 head of the country's best beef cattle descended on the Main Arena from August 1 to be paraded and judged. We were pleased to see that entries in the beef cattle competitions were up by almost 30 per cent on last year, with a total of 2,135 entries received.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2017 show, when we celebrate our 140th anniversary.

David Thomas
RNA President



Authentic signature dumplings and gourmet meals on offer in King Street



First retailers open on King Street

The RNA has welcomed three new retailers on King Street, who are providing customers with a range of dining options from dumplings to gourmet salads and premium sushi.

The street, which first opened to traffic and the four and a half star Rydges Hotel in February, is fast becoming one of Brisbane's most vibrant retail strips.

The George and Fat Dumpling were the first retailers to start serving customers, when they opened in early August. The George offers a gourmet bistro menu featuring everything from bacon and eggs to delicious salads. It's open for breakfast and lunch, with drinks and share plates enjoyed on Thursday and Friday nights.

Fat Dumpling follows the owner's popular Brunswick Street restaurant in Fortitude Valley and offers authentic signature dumplings and homestyle dishes from family recipes. It's open for lunch Monday to Friday and dinner Thursday to Saturday.

Sushi & Nori, which is already well established in Sydney, was the next retailer to open in late September. It serves premium sushi and modern Asian cuisine in a sushi train dining setting and has been a popular lunch time option.

Creating buzz on King Street in October will be Hello Chicken, Italian restaurant Il Verde and The Lamb Shop. Hello Chicken will serve fried chicken from a Combi Van, with flavours including soy and garlic and

crazy hot chilli. Il Verde will offer modern Italian cuisine while The Lamb Shop will serve a modern twist on lamb souvlaki and other Greek inspired dishes.

Restaurants now open:

The George
Mon - Wed, 7am - 4:30pm; Thu/Fri, 7am - late.

Fat Dumpling
Weekdays: 11:30am - 3pm.

Sushi & Nori
Mon - Fri, 11am - 3pm; Mon - Fri, 5:30pm - 10pm.

Restaurants to come:

Hello Chicken
Il Verde
The Lamb Shop

Kings Co-op Unveiled



Artists impression of the new Kings Co-op

Work has started on the next stage of the RNA's \$2.9 billion Brisbane Showgrounds Regeneration Project.

Stage three of the project, which kicked off following the Ekka, includes the new Kings Co-op.

Located across from the Main Arena and breathing new life into well known Ekka buildings – the Sugar building and Dairy Industry Hall – Kings Co-op will feature a food and beverage concept, studio spaces

for the creative industries and a mix of uses proposed to include childcare and health and wellbeing.

The modern design will stay true to the history of the precinct by utilising the existing architecture and landscape, as well as using reclaimed materials from pavilions within the Brisbane Showgrounds.

Once complete, Kings Co-op will provide a great facility for Ekka visitors, as well as year round services and amenities to the growing

Showgrounds community.

The RNA is now into its sixth year of the regeneration project and each stage reflects its goal of transforming the Showgrounds into a year round world-class destination and lifestyle precinct, while ensuring the Ekka remains where it first began.

Construction on the Kings Co-op, which will be supported by a multi-level precinct car park, is expected to be complete in July 2017.

Come to life

DISCOVER KING STREET

Located at the heart of Brisbane Showgrounds, King Street is Brisbane's newest high street connecting St Pauls Terrace to Gregory Terrace.



GG espresso

THE
GEORGE
BAR & BISTRO

It's our shout!

FREE* DRINK

Bring this voucher to any participating bar or restaurant at King Street and be treated to a FREE* drink!

Voucher Code: 08432584



stalk us



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livekingstreet.com.au



*Terms & conditions apply. Redeem the original version of this voucher for a free single drink up to the value of \$8. Voucher is redeemable until Wednesday 30 November 2016. To redeem the voucher, the original voucher must be surrendered at purchase and you must advise the retailer prior to placing any order. Voucher cannot be redeemed for cash, only one voucher can be redeemed per person and only one voucher can be surrendered in a transaction. No change given. Each voucher has a unique code. **Participating retailers:** All retailers with street address of King Street, Bowen Hills excluding Rydges Hotel, Paddock Bar and Six Acres Restaurant and any other retailer electing to opt out of the promotion.

Festive season special

Those travelling to Brisbane to visit family and friends this Christmas can enjoy a fantastic festive offer for the very first time when staying in the heart of the Brisbane Showgrounds.

Guests can stay at the four and a half star Rydges Fortitude Valley, which opened in Gregory Terrace in February, for just \$149 per room per night.

The deal not only includes accommodation, but also covers a buffet breakfast and car parking. See below for more details and to book.

The hotel boasts contemporary design, while remaining true to the site's heritage with its Ekka inspired rooms. It also features the Paddock Bar and Six Acres restaurant, a gym and a swimming pool.



From left: Nalin, Tenuri, Chamila & Perern with the new addition to their family

Finding fur-ever homes

A total of 236 animals recently found their fur-ever homes at the RSPCA's Big Adopt Out at the Brisbane Showgrounds on September 17.

The annual event, which has been held at the Showgrounds since 2013, saw thousands of people search for their paw-fect companion to give a cat or dog the second chance they deserve.

ENJOY CHRISTMAS THE RYDGES WAY

CHRISTMAS PACKAGE FROM

INCL ROOM, BREAKFAST & PARKING **\$149** per night

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www.rydges.com/fortitudevalley

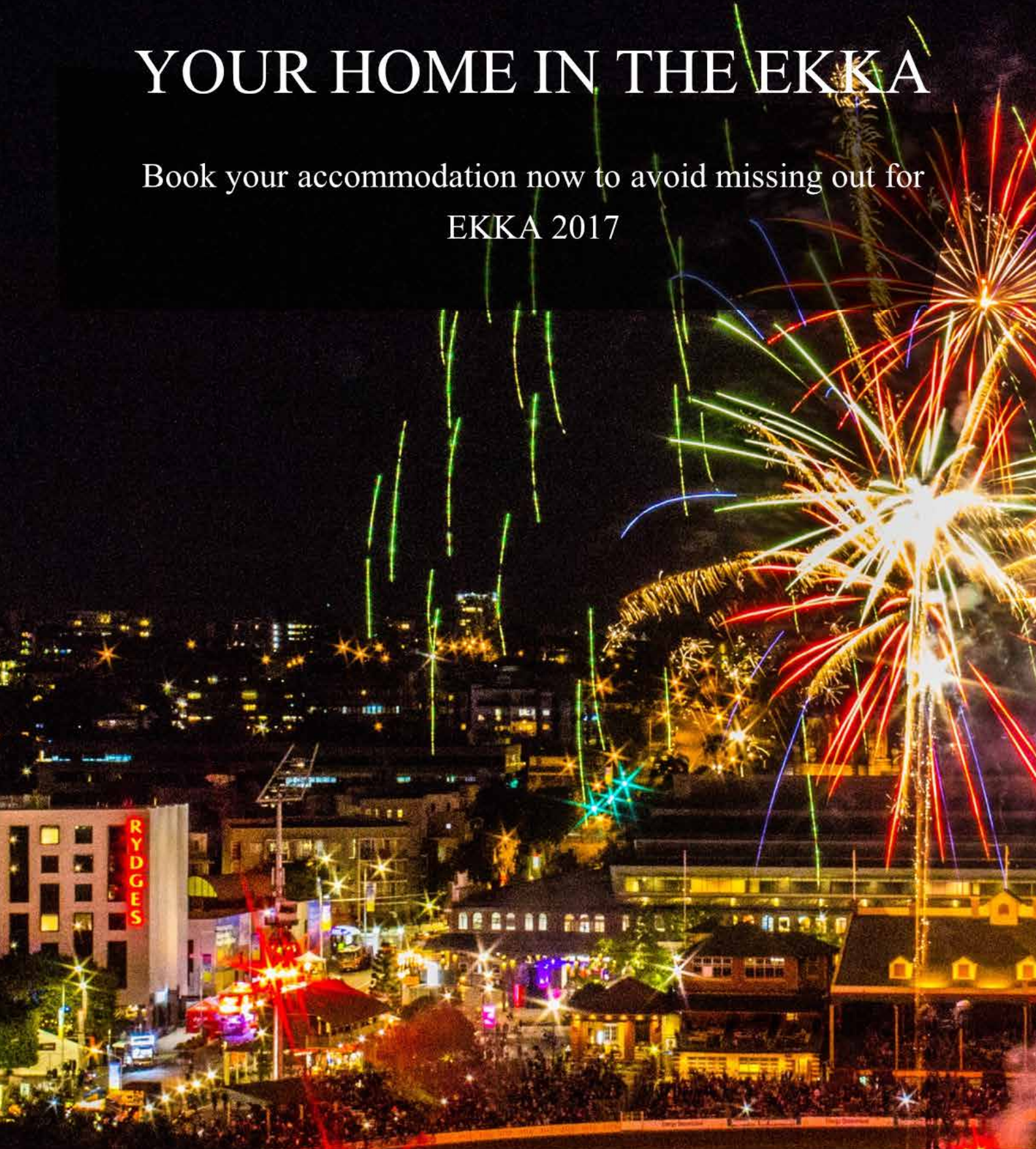


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EKKA 2017



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Ekka 2016

Almost 400,000 people came together to enjoy this year's Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) - a 10 day celebration of what makes the state great.

The show saw 21,000 competition entries, 10,000 animals, a smorgasbord of award-winning food and wine and hours of free family entertainment, including the spectacular never before seen night show EkkaNITES. The Ekka has always celebrated the rural and the urban; the traditional and the innovative, and it's for this reason the event holds a special place in the hearts of Queenslanders - as it has for generations.



The return of The Old Museum

For the first time in 119 years, The Old Museum came home to Ekka forming a brand new precinct for the 10 days of show.

It was home to Ekka's Flower and Garden Exhibition presented by Envy Lawn "Grown for Life" and Quilts Across Queensland presented by Queensland Quilters.

The precinct was buzzing with a hive of activity ranging from student garden installations and community and garden society displays to outdoor dining, stunning quilts and a jam packed speaker schedule on the Flower and Garden Platform Stage.

Couples had fun sharing a kiss under the Ekka Love Tree, while the kids enjoyed

making flower crowns and seeing life-sized dinosaurs at the Triceratops Tiara Tea Party.

The Old Museum was built for the RNA in 1891 and was originally called the Exhibition Building and Concert Hall. The Queensland Government took control of the building and grounds in 1897, following a major economic depression. It then became home of the Queensland Museum in 1899.

Bringing the Ekka and The Old Museum back together again this year was truly special and symbolised the importance of heritage and legacy to the RNA.

Plant a piece of Ekka

To celebrate The Old Museum coming home to Ekka, the RNA released a brand new rose called the 'Royal Queensland Show.'

The stunning apricot coloured rose was planted in The Old Museum rose garden on the first morning of show (August 5). If you're interested in purchasing the beautiful rose to brighten up your garden, please register your interest here www.hains.com.au/royal-queensland-show.html

EkkaNITES goes off with a bang

The Main Arena came alive each night of show, with the spectacular never before seen night show EkkaNITES.

It featured the traditional elements like the woodchop and sheepdogs, before turning up the heat with the Hot Wheels High Octane Show which included V8 drift cars, the world first Sphere of Death and breathtaking aerial tricks from the FMX Freestyle Kings. The night show also featured a tribute to Australian music, with the songs of Jimmy Barnes, Keith Urban and Kylie Minogue.

EkkaNITES showcased incredible talent this year. American FMX superstar Vicki Golden and V8 Supercar driver Renee Gracie revved up the Hot Wheels High Octane Show, while trick riding star Mikayla Jade showed amazing balance on the back of a horse.

The EkkaNITES fireworks finale engulfed

“The best fireworks ever. Those kites floating through the night sky with fireworks coming out were amazing.”

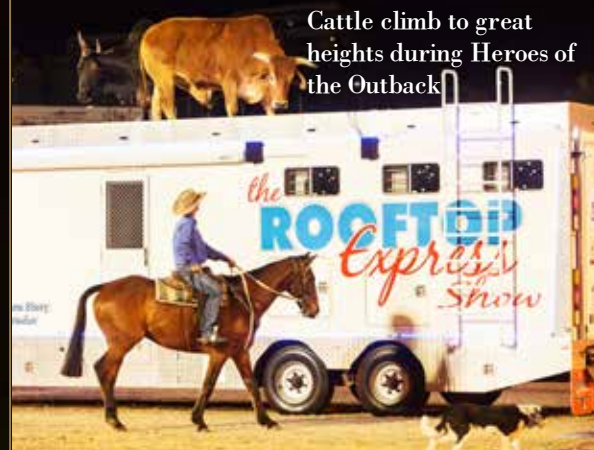
Natalie Kay Stewart, Ekka Facebook

the Main Arena in explosive light and colour. It featured a 20 metre high pyrotechnic tower, shooting fireworks from 49 different positions, creating a Bellagio fountain effect. The finale also saw quad motorcycles tow 20 kites with silver fountain fireworks and illuminated horses change colours before the crowd's eyes.

This spectacular nightly event was



A daring FMX Freestyle King shows off his aerial tricks



Cattle climb to great heights during Heroes of the Outback



V8 Supercar driver Renee Gracie gives the cheering crowd a wave

once again produced by entertainment extraordinaire Jack Ellison, who has worked on blockbuster films including Mission Impossible 2. Max Brunner and his team from Skylighter FireworX were in charge of the fireworks display, while Jeffrey John Pavey designed the lighting. This year's EkkaNITES was a hit, receiving rave reviews on social media.

“My husband is an avid Ekka goer... he says the night show was the best he's seen and the fireworks the most spectacular....”

Karen Clayton, Ekka Facebook



Nevaeh Butterfly had fun feeding a goat

Finding farmyard friends at the animal nursery

The much-loved RACQ Animal Nursery was once again an Ekka family favourite.

The kids, including Nevaeh (left), had fun cuddling up to more than 400 baby animals at the nursery, while the parents captured the memories on camera.

For some of the city kids, it was the very first time they had patted farmyard animals such as lambs, pigs, ducklings and goats and their smiles from ear to ear said it all.

Lumberjack Show saws to new heights

The larrikin lumberjacks had the crowds in stitches at the Heritage Bank Lumberjack Show.

Their competition to prove just who is the best in the bush featured impressive chainsaw carving, speed climbing up a 50 foot pole, log rolling in a 7,000 litre water pond and hot saw racing.

The international act from Canada starred Australia's Dony Skevos, New Zealand's Ben Lefler and Canada's Lukas Brown-John (right), who are some of world's best free speed climbers.



Lukas Brown-John in action

A grand proposal



Leo Thompson proposed to Kylie Hopkins

Love was in the air on people's day, with Leo Thompson popping the question to his now fiancé Kylie Hopkins.

The Rockhampton couple was parading their winning Anglo Nubian goats in the Grand Parade, when Leo got down on one knee and proposed.

Leo and Kylie, who enter the Ekka's Dairy Goat competition each year, first met at the XXXX Cattleman's Bar 10 years ago to the day, so Leo thought this was the perfect time and place to get engaged.

He started planning his grand proposal with the RNA in March and it all went perfectly – of course Kylie said YES!

Fashion parades hit the ground 'runway'

Fashion fans were treated to a fabulous display of style, with the iconic Natural Fibres Fashion Parades celebrating their 25th year.

Twelve of Queensland's most sought-after and long-established designers selected a favourite piece from the last 25 years for a rare runway revival.

The parades, directed by Lindsay Bennett, were a favourite on the Ekka program and drew large crowds.



Napoleon Perdis works his makeup magic on daughter Lianna



The makeup King comes to Ekka

Audiences at the Natural Fibres Fashion Parades were thrilled to meet Australia's beauty mastermind, Napoleon Perdis, on the first day of show (August 5).

The long-term makeup sponsor of the parades and his eldest daughter, Lianna, visited Ekka, taking part in a Q&A on the Mumm Entertainment and Fashion Stage, before signing autographs.

We asked Napoleon for his top tip, to which he replied "not to prime is a crime."

Tens of thousands of children converged on the Agricultural Hall at Ekka, to be inspired, educated and entertained.

This year the Ag Hall featured a new interactive rural journey for children, to help the next generation understand that everything starts with agriculture, from the food they eat to the clothes they wear.

The activities included a cooking class using fresh and healthy ingredients, an interactive display to teach children about the grain to flour process, precision farming with peddle tractors and a farmers patch where kids could dig up and identify different vegetables.

Also taking part in the learning activities in the Ag Hall were thousands of students from 22 primary and secondary schools from south east Queensland and northern New South Wales, who came to the show with their teachers on Ekka's dedicated school days.

Queensland's largest classroom



Gus Hargraeve learns that everything starts with agriculture



Ekka a drawcard for Asian tourists

Almost 6,500 people from Greater China visited the Ekka this year to see giant pumpkins, prized cattle and champion woodchoppers, thanks to an international marketing campaign driven by Ekka's Strategic Tourism Partner, Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ).

Visitors from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong made the trip to Brisbane last month for Queensland's largest and most loved annual event - this represents almost a 20 per cent increase from these regions coming to Ekka from last year.

The RNA began its push for Asian visitors and tour groups to the show three years

ago and this year partnered with TEQ on a fresh marketing strategy, with China now Queensland's fastest growing tourism market.

The campaign focused on marketing activities in Greater China cities offering flights

to Brisbane, including Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Guangdong.

The Ekka was also included in tour packages with promotion focusing on Ekka's traditional and unique competitions including beef cattle, woodchop and giant vegetables.

The RNA believes there is huge potential to increase Ekka visitor numbers from Greater China and will continue working with TEQ to encourage travellers from these regions to make the trip.

It's hoped the continued marketing campaign will see another increase in Greater Chinese visitors next year, when the Ekka celebrates its 140th anniversary.

The RNA believes there is huge potential to increase Ekka visitor numbers from Greater China

Showbags snapped up

With more than 360 showbags on offer, it's no surprise the Triple M Showbag Pavilion was packed with Ekka guests each day. Bertie Beetle was once again the most popular showbag, with 150,000 sold. Wonka Bags also walked out the door with 20,000 sold, while the Pokemon Go craze saw 5,000 Pokemon bags snapped up – it was so popular it even sold out for a few days before more stock arrived.

*numbers are estimates only





Ekka Fun Facts

184,000+

Dagwood Dogs

1,000+

Giant lamingtons

3,900

*Corn on the cob
(that's 130 boxes of corn!)*

152,000+

Strawberry Sundaes

10,000+

*Chips on a stick
(that's more than four tonne of potatoes!)*

33,000+

Glasses of wine

40,000+

*Cheese toasties
(two tonne of butter and four tonne of cheese)*

5,000+

Award-winning steaks

600+

Pairs of Ugg boots

176,000+

Schooners of beer

7,000+

CWA scones

6,000+

Firefighter calendars sold

36,000+

Cans of rum

2,000+

*Bowls of mac and cheese
(that's more than a tonne of pasta and half a tonne of cheese!)*

50,000+

*Fireworks fired
(that's more than a tonne of fireworks!)*



Ekka Grand

Category	Winner
Thoroughbred	
<i>Supreme Champion Thoroughbred</i>	Regal Banquet, Anderson & Powell Families, Oakey QLD
Stud Horses	
<i>Supreme Champion Australian Stockhorse</i>	Glen Lee Rivoli Angelique, Allstars Australian Performance Horses, Kerry QLD
<i>Supreme Champion Clydesdale</i>	Duneske Flash Pearl, J M & I Stewart-Koster, Highgrove QLD
<i>Supreme Champion Riding Pony</i>	Miss Universe, Austin, Lilley and Elliott Family, Tamborine QLD
Farriers & Blacksmiths	
<i>Most Successful Exhibitor Open</i>	Rodney King, Amberley NZ
Horses in Action	
<i>Champion Hack of Queensland</i>	Mikimoto, Joh Bailey & Sandra McCann, The Oaks NSW
<i>Champion Gentleman Rider</i>	Carousel's King Hit ridden by Daniel Retschlag, Jayde Novak, Kingaroy QLD
<i>Champion Lady Rider</i>	Black Tie ridden by Jemma Heran, GC Equestrian & Jemma Heran, Guanaba QLD
<i>Champion Show Hunter Galloway of Queensland</i>	Chloble Park Madrid, A Willett & S Johnson, Narangba QLD
<i>Champion Pony Hack of Queensland – Over 12.2 Hands</i>	Headley Park Royal Show, GC Equestrian - Riley Kent & Sarah Scotson, Guanaba QLD
<i>Champion Medium or Heavy Horse in Harness – Over 14 Hands</i>	Cobigan Antoinette, Cobigan Draught Horses, Kyogle NSW
Woodchop & Sawing	
<i>Champion Axeman of the Show</i>	Kody Steers, Sheffield TAS
Canine	
<i>Champion of Show</i>	SUP.CH. PICARDY PS I LOVE YOU, Mr M & Mrs L Boyd & Miss J Foulds, Meringandan West QLD
Feline	
<i>Supreme All Breeds Feline of Show</i>	CCCA GD CH & DIAMOND GD CH BABYBEST CAT SO GENTLE VAN (IMP BELGIUM), Lee Clark, Melbourne VIC
Pisciculture	
<i>Champion Fish of Show</i>	Downstream Aquatics, Annerley QLD
<i>Grand Champion Exhibit of Show</i>	Downstream Aquatics, Annerley QLD
Poultry	
<i>Eric Dowdle Memorial Prize Grand Champion Fowl of Show</i>	Bantam Pekin - White Cockerel, Geoffrey Edards, Maryborough QLD
<i>Ivan Patava Memorial Prize Grand Champion Waterfowl of Show</i>	Indian Runner - White Young Drake, Terry & Linda Taylor, Burua QLD
<i>Dempsey Bailey Memorial Prize Grand Champion Bantam of Show</i>	Bantam Pekin - White Cockerel, Geoffrey Edards, Maryborough QLD
Dairy Cattle	
<i>Supreme Champion Dairy Cow</i>	KENARIE JADE FINCH, PG & PM McDonald, Murwillumbah NSW
Prime Beef	
<i>Grand Champion Pen</i>	Charolais X, Noel & Elizabeth Cook, Goondiwindi QLD

Champions

Category	Winner
Stud Beef	
<i>The Warby Trophy Champion of Champions Breed Pair</i>	CRATHES ESTELLA 33 (P), Milford Charolais Stud, Beaudesert QLD DSK TGL LEGACY L34 (P), Elite and Moongool Charolais, Meandarra QLD
<i>The Bassingthwaighte Trophy Champion of Champions Bull</i>	VIVA MARIO (D), Alistair & Pamela Davison, Tieri QLD
<i>Champion of Champions Cow or Heifer</i>	CRATHES ESTELLA 33 (P), Milford Charolais Stud, Beaudesert QLD
Interbreed Champion (Small Breeds)	
<i>Interbreed Champion Bull</i>	TANVIEW JACKAROO, Kenneth & Tanya Falkenhagen, Boonah QLD
<i>Interbreed Champion Cow or Heifer</i>	SILVER FERN LADY LOOPY 47405 (H) (PHA: F), T.D & T.M Nuttridge, Lockyer Waters QLD
Led Steer	
<i>Grand Champion Led Steer</i>	Hereford Limo Cross, Hunday Pastrol Co, Quirindi NSW
<i>Grand Champion Led Steer Carcass</i>	Purebred Limousin, Lydford Family - Universal Limousins, Dubbo NSW
Dairy Goats	
<i>Supreme Champion Dairy Doe of Show</i>	Poldark Splendor, Lesley & Tom Mcdowell, Morganville QLD
Angora Goats	
<i>Grand Champion Angora Goat of Show</i>	Tagora 29, Sue Paterson, Cambooya QLD
Sheep	
<i>Supreme Champion Ram of Show</i>	Silverdale, Silverdale Dorsets Studs, Inglewood QLD
<i>Supreme Champion Ewe of Show</i>	SCOTS PIPPA, Scots PGC College, Warwick QLD
<i>Supreme Champion Breeders of Show</i>	Silverdale Dorsets Studs, Inglewood QLD
Quilts Across Queensland	
<i>Best of Show</i>	Red Floral Quilt with Pillow Sham, M M Svenson, Bundaberg QLD
Fine Arts	
<i>Grand Champion Entry – Cake Decorating</i>	Themed Cake Teapot, Brenden Clem, Chermiside West QLD
<i>Grand Champion Exhibit – Creative Art & Craft</i>	Possums, Beverley Bosel, Ayr QLD
<i>Champion Portrait of Show</i>	Morobe Child, Penelope Gilbert-Ng, Runcorn QLD
<i>Champion Sculpture</i>	Surf's Up, Jane Prasser, Kenmore QLD
<i>Champion Print of Show – Photography</i>	Underwater World, Annette Scott, Hunchy QLD
Agricultural Hall	
<i>Best Collection of Exhibitors from the Districts</i>	Moreton District Exhibit Committee
<i>Champion Exhibitor – Home Grown Giant Vegetable</i>	Geoff Frohloff, Minden QLD
Apiculture	
<i>Champion Honey of Show</i>	P & N Geeves, Blackstone QLD
Flower and Garden	
<i>Mabel Burnett Shield – Most Effective Display</i>	The Orchid Society of South East Queensland
<i>Colin Campbell Memorial – Most Educational Display</i>	Bromeliad Society

2016 'High Tea' Fundraiser

Xavier Chayce, one of the lucky recipients of the iPads purchased from funds raised by 2015's Fundraiser



Special report by
Jane Thomas

Last year the RNA undertook a fundraising project aimed at assisting families who are currently being affected by the drought. In line with the RNA's charter of helping and educating rural youth, the event raised money for the purchase of iPads for children whose families reside in drought affected regions.

The 2015 'Inaugural' event was a huge success!!!

Originally it was planned that the money raised would buy iPads for children being educated through the Longreach School of Distance Education. However, support for the project was so great that the offer

was able to be extended to also include children educated through the Charleville SDE.

Charleville Principal, Jenny Swadling, enjoyed catching up with many parents and friends at this year's event.

The iPads for Longreach and Charleville were purchased from local businesses and then distributed to the students. The RNA was delighted when it received wonderful feedback from some of the families involved. The message was clear!!! Being able to 'download' their requirements and then complete those studies, at a time convenient to their families, has been of great assistance

during these trying times.

A video was made of their heart-felt messages and I include the link here for you to [enjoy here](#).

We also received some insightful comments that were sent through from Rowena Arthur, Principal of the Longreach SDE. Rowena wrote:

Earlier in the year we flew out three iPad experts to deliver two days of iPad training to our Home Tutors. During the Clusters over the last fortnight we did follow up sessions where Home Tutors shared how they now use the iPads for school. Many have told us that the iPads have

made their lives so much easier and their children love using the iPad.

A few examples:

- students can complete work on the iPad and email it directly to their teacher (they no longer have to scan and save it first- this really saves time)
- students can make an iMovie and email it directly to their teacher or if it's too big to email copy it to a thumb drive and post it in
- one child joined an on-air lesson while waiting in the doctors surgery in Townsville others have joined lessons in a car while travelling
- some students have converted from computer to using the iPad for nearly everything in the school room- the iPad is so much more portable
- those with small internet plans can download apps while in town and have them to use at home for schoolwork
- parents have become more technology savvy – although they will say the kids still run rings around them!
- students can easily take photos of home life and school tasks and email them straight to their teachers.

We realise now we underestimated the positive impact of this project! The benefits are much broader than we ever anticipated.

In response to such favourable feedback, it was decided to repeat the same theme again this year. The principals of the Mt Isa SDE and Charters Towers SDE were contacted and both agreed that iPads or tablets would also be of great benefit in the education of their outback families.

We were delighted that two lady representatives, from both centres, were able to attend our function.

The Fundraiser occurred on the Thursday before the Ekka gates officially opened. Once again the event was conducted in the main auditorium of the 'Royal International Convention Centre' which is situated at the heart of the showgrounds. The 1323 square metre room lends itself well to the host of activities scheduled throughout the afternoon's programme.

As a 'Ladies Only', 'High Tea' function – it is a rather unique affair. But then so much associated with the EKKA is unique!!! Recognised as Qld's largest and most loved annual event, it is not surprising that this fundraiser, which precedes the 10 day show, again attracted 500 animated guests all enthusiastically expecting to once more partake in the entertainment

and excitement associated with an 'Ekka Experience'.

“As a Ladies Only, High Tea function it is a rather unique affair.”

The same organising committee members - comprising Mrs Margi Adnam, Mrs Gina Fairfax, Mrs Margot Warby and me (Jane Thomas), were joined by their team of Hostesses – with everyone submitting the names and email addresses of family and friends. Once again each guest was forwarded her own personal invitation, with every lady invited having a direct connection with (or love of) the RNA. We believe that this is a winning formula!!! A genuine feeling of good-will and camaraderie is one of the key trademarks of this 'City greets Country' event.

This year a 'Save the Date' reminder was sent out in early March, with the formal invitation going out at the end of May. Fortunately, the RNA's 'IT' team managed to overcome last year's email glitches and all correspondence seemed to reach its destination without too many problems. Tickets sold fast and many cash donations started filtering through. Again, the same lady as last year supported our event, by writing out a cheque for multiple iPads. Her quiet generosity is so very much appreciated by us all!!!

Our event was also supported by both sides of politics. Deb Frecklington, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, attended again this year. As the State Member for Nanango, Deb lives in Kingaroy and is a familiar face and friend to many rural families. This year she was also joined by our Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk. Anastacia has a long history with the Ekka, with her father being Minister for Primary Industries (during show time, he used to move his office to the Ekka) while her mother has been in charge of the 'Quilts Section' for the last 15 years. The Premier presented us with a cheque for \$2000, from the people of Queensland.

At this stage I would also like to mention that we were both honoured and delighted to be joined on the day by the Governor's wife, Mrs Kaye de Jersey, Dame Quentin Bryce AD, CVO and our immediate past Governor, Ms Penny Wensley AC. Along with the Committee, these three ladies agreed to give an interview on 'Ekka TV'. To view please [click here](#).

Guests started arriving at 1.30pm and the



Host Pip Courtney



Cellist Bella McDonald

room quickly began to buzz with activity. Undoubtedly one of the best aspects of this event is the ability for guests to move around and mingle. 'Meeting and Greeting', while helping to raise funds for our rural children, is what this event is all about. One 'country' guest was even heard saying that she and her four friends meet at the Fundraiser and then plan what they are going to do during the next 10 days of the show.

At 2.00pm everyone was asked to take a seat in front of the stage. This year the winner of the 'Lucky Seat Number' was quickly identified when the pre-decided seat was announced. This resulted in peals of laughter from the winner and her group of friends from Quilpie.

Everyone quickly settled down to enjoy the colour and styles of the Fashion Parade. This year marked the 25th year that the Ekka Fashion Parade has been directed by Lindsay Bennett. Consequently, it featured a special 'retrospective' segment. 12 of Brisbane's top Fashion Houses each selected a favourite piece from the last 25

RNA Fundraiser

years for a rare 'Runway Revival' - along with a selection of their current designs.

It was lovely that Bronwyn and Marabeth Smith (from 'Irma J Smith') and Pia du Pradal could again attend our afternoon's activities.

At the conclusion of the Fashion Parade, the serious business of WHY we had all gathered together was taken in hand by a person well-versed in life on the land.

Special Guest Master of Ceremonies, the highly acclaimed 'Landline' ABC Television presenter Ms Pip Courtney, again presided over a varied programme.

Firstly, she introduced Isabella McDonald, a Year 11 Somerville House boarder, who was educated through the Mt Isa SDE. Unaccompanied, Bella performed two beautifully executed solo pieces on her cello. I was amazed to hear that initially Bella learnt to play her cello via Skype through school of the air. What an achievement!!! And how very accomplished she has become - recently winning the award for 'Most Outstanding String Soloist' at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod and then travelling with her mother to New Zealand for the Waikato

International Cello Festival, where she performed over a period of nine days.

Pip then introduced our Guest Speaker, Mrs Annabelle Brayley. Annabelle, who describes herself as an "Outback Storyteller", is also the author of several books - including "Bush Nurses", "Outback Vets", "Nurses of the Outback" and her most recently released publication: "Our Vietnam Nurses". Her talents extend beyond putting 'pen to paper' as she effortlessly maintained everyone's interest with tales about her involvement with the Charleville SDE. She also broached a more sensitive topic - the urgent need for increased and more reliable data access throughout our vast state.

Once again 'Ekka TV' was there to capture the action live. To view Annabelle's speech please [click here](#).

At the conclusion of all official activities everyone happily resumed their 'meetings and greetings', while partaking in a traditional 'High Tea' of ribbon sandwiches, scones and profiteroles accompanied by champagne top-ups or cups of tea and coffee.

At this stage the Raffle Tickets started

selling in earnest and those interested in the Silent Auction items kept a close eye on the progress of the 'bid sheets'. For two months leading up to this event several key ladies have worked very hard - gathering together many of the 16 Silent Auction items and 55 Raffle prizes. All vouchers and items were delivered to the site prior to the event and only available for purchase on the 'Big Day'.

This year, Raffle Tickets were sold by the Miss Showgirls, who worked in pairs and were easy to spot by eager purchasers. We are most grateful to this lovely team of girls (and their organisers) for finding the time to help us out during their busy show schedule. Pictured here are two of those enthusiastic volunteers.

The announcements of the Silent Auction winners and the drawing of the Raffle tickets were the final highlights of the afternoon programme. Winning ticket numbers were projected from huge overhead screens and lucky recipients came forward to collect their prizes.

As with all fundraising activities, the event could not be a success without its sponsors. I wish to sincerely thank all those

"Annabelle describes herself as an Outback Storyteller."

Key speaker Annabelle Brayley

“Our event was supported by both sides of politics.”



From left: Gina Fairfax, Former Governor of Queensland Penelope Wensley, Dame Quentin Bryce, Margie Adnam, Jane Thomas, Margot Warby, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Annabelle Brayley, Mrs. Kaye de Jersey and Deputy Opposition Leader Deb Frecklington

who provided Raffle and Silent 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:

Adele Hughes – ‘Rangeland Quality Meats’

Adorne Jewellery, West End

Alice Finlay

Alice Greenup (Author)

Ann Garms – ‘The French Connection’

Annabelle Brayley (Author)

Belinda West

Brigitte & Roly Hughes (Thargomindah)

Brisbane Festival

Chemist Warehouse (Redcliffe)

Dean Rusling – ‘Chalkos Art Foundry’

Debbie Noller

Dymocks Book Store

The Fairfax Family

Georgia Macmillan Paints and Paper

Gainsdale Group: Spicers Tamarind

Retreat, Maleny

Ivory Tavern, Tweed Heads

Jan Kieseker

Jenny Old (Author)

Joan Scott

John Cox (Artist)

Katrina Christ Photography

Kylie & Brian Rutledge, Quilpie

La Boite Theatre

Lindsay Bennett Marketing

Liz from Azzanzi Hair Salon (Dicky Beach, Caloundra)

Margot McKinney Jewellery

Merlo Coffee (Bowen Hills)

Napoleon Perdis

Heather Sartain – ‘One Wybelenna’

PandaPearls, Nundah

Penguin Books Australia

Pia du Pradal, Fashion House

Putia Pure Foods Kitchen, Banyo

Qld Ballet

RACQ

RBSellers Outfitters

Rod Bower – ‘Continental Biscuit Manufacturers’

Rydges (Fortitude Valley)

Sally Cottee

Samantha Ogilvie Fashion Boutique

Terry White Pharmacy (Fairfield Gardens)

The Mason Baker Gourmet Jar-cakes

Urbane Restaurant Group

Village Roadshow Theme Parks

The generosity of the supporters listed above significantly contributed to us raising just over \$40,000. It is a wonderful outcome that will be very much appreciated by the children whose lives we touch.

As the function drew to a close, ladies departed singly and in groups while RNA staff started to prepare the room in readiness for the next day’s arrival of the Ekka crowds.

On behalf of the RNA, I wish to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the success of the RNA’s 2016 Fundraiser as well as all those volunteers who worked so hard during the show to ensure that the 10 days of Ekka were full of ‘Enjoyment, Excitement and Entertainment’.

The year ahead will be a busy time for the RNA as it prepares for its third Fundraiser and our 140th EKKKA show!!!

In closing, I leave you with the thought provoking words of Francis of Assisi:

“For it is in giving that we receive.”

Until next year,

Jane Thomas

Left to right: Kylie, Quinn and Travis Pearson enjoy their Steakhouse meal



RQFWS award-winners steak their claim at Ekka

The Ekka food scene wasn't just all about dagwood dogs and fairy floss. Amongst the traditional show foods was the nation's best red meat and wine, sourced directly from the prestigious Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show (RQFWS).

The five star Royal Queensland Steakhouse presented by JBS had mouths watering, with the menu featuring the nation's best steak and lamb.

The chefs cooked around 5,000 award-winning steaks for guests, including a Darling Downs Wagyu produced by Australian Agricultural Company which was crowned RQFWS Grand Champion Branded Beef of Show this year.

Sanger Australia's Mr Lamb product, awarded the title of RQFWS Champion Branded Lamb of Show, was also

a popular menu choice with guests commenting on how juicy the lamb rack was.

*the chefs cooked around
5,000 RQFWS
award-winning steaks*

For dessert, a delicious platter of RQFWS award-winning cheeses had tastebuds satisfied. The platter featured three gold

medal-winning cheeses - Tarwin Blue from Berrys Creek and Surprise Bay Cheddar and Furneaux Double Cream both from King Island Dairy.

The best of the best in fine wines were of course also on offer. Whether guests preferred a sparkling, red or white, they could always find a RQFWS award-winner to enjoy. A gold medal-winning Pepper Jack Cabernet Sauvignon from the Barossa Valley and bronze medal-winning Lindemans Bin 85 Pinot Grigio were just some of the fine wines uncorked by guests.

Australia's best for a bargain

When you think award-winning foods, you automatically think expensive – but not at Ekka.

The chefs at RQFWS Tastings in Gourmet Plaza served up gold medal-winning beef, lamb and sausages for just \$5 each a plate. For those who couldn't decide which meat to devour, on offer were \$15 plates featuring all three mouth-watering meats - plus a drink.

Over the 10 days of show, more than 6,600

tasting plates of award-winning steak and lamb were enjoyed. They were designed so everyone could experience and savour the taste of some of Australia's best meats - all for the cost of some loose change.

*gold medal-winning
beef, lamb and sausages
for just \$5*



Emily Quinn shows off her tasting plate

Try it at home

The mouth-watering meats served at the Royal Queensland Steakhouse presented by JBS were all perfectly accompanied by a delicious red wine jus. Our Executive Chef, Sean Cummings, has shared the recipe exclusively with Showbiz readers, along with tips for cooking the perfect steak, so you can recreate the Steakhouse experience at home.

How to cook the perfect steak

About 20 minutes before grilling, remove the steaks from the refrigerator and let sit, covered, at room temperature.

Heat your grill to high, brush your steak on both sides with oil and season with salt and pepper.

Place the steak on the grill and cook until golden brown and slightly charred, 4 to 5 minutes.

Turn the steak over and continue to cook for 3 to 5 minutes for medium-rare (an internal temperature of 52°C), 5 to 7 minutes for medium (55°C) or 8 to 10 minutes for medium-well (60°C).

Let the steak rest 5 minutes before serving.

Red Wine Jus

Ingredients:

2 chopped shallots	1 carrot cut into large chunks
175ml port	175ml red wine
1 sprig thyme	1 bay leaf
1lt good beef stock	2 tbs butter
Salt to taste	

Method:

1. Panfry the shallots and carrots until caramelised
2. Add the port, wine and herbs then reduce by half
3. Add the stock and reduce by half
4. Strain the liquid through a fine sieve and bring back to the boil
5. Remove from heat and add the butter
6. Season to taste and enjoy with your choice of beef or lamb





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