

SPRING 2007

SHOWBIZ



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Beauty and the beholder



Bypass tunnel update



Coca-Cola Amatil helps Queensland farmers



Young journalists born at EkkA show camp



Mark your calendars now!



The EkkA has come and gone for another year



Message from the President

Thank you to our members, sponsors, judges and stewards, general volunteers, exhibitors, staff and Councillors for staging a truly wonderful event for the people of Queensland.

Although visitor numbers were down this year, due to a number of factors, rest assured that the RNA is more determined than ever to return in 2008 with a bumper EkkA, and planning has already begun to ensure it!

This year's flu season affected every organisation, particularly the RNA which derives a large part of its ongoing funding through a successful ten days in August.

The effect of the flu on the Show this year emphasises the even more urgent need to drive redevelopment and improvement of buildings throughout the RNA Showgrounds. By improving Showground infrastructure, we will have more opportunity to grow our conference and event business throughout the year, which in turn will

provide us with more funding to stage the EkkA in August as well as other events.

The RNA will be reviewing every aspect of EkkA 2008 – from pricing and ticket packaging to the entertainment offerings in the Energex Community Arena and throughout the grounds. We will need to work hard to bring the people back next year, but we're up for the challenge!

The EkkA is a great event which has shaped Queensland's cultural heritage for 131 years. It has the vast support of the people and will continue to bring joy, learning and fun to the young and old for many more years to come.

Thanks for your support.

Dr Vivian Edwards OAM
RNA President

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RNA, RNA SHOWGROUNDS & ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW



RNA | THE ROYAL NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

EkkA!
www.ekka.com.au

RNA SHOWGROUNDS
EVER EVENTFUL

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RNA, RNA SHOWGROUNDS & ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

Coming up in Spring

Retirement & Lifestyle Expo

19-21 October
10am-4.30pm daily

A major exhibition displaying everything relating to planning for retirement, retirement living and lifestyle issues.

Pre-Christmas Caravan & Camping Sale

26-28 October
10am-5pm daily

Huge savings on superceded models, clearance lines and demo models; plus great deals on new models.

Bourbon Fest

3 November
3-10pm

A jam packed outdoor festival of music, sport, comedy and eye candy, with one spirit – Jim Beam.

Arms Fair

3-4 November
9am-5pm Saturday
9am-3pm Sunday

250 tables of modern and antique firearms, accessories, militaria, books, and edged weapons.

Tropical Foliage Festival

17-18 November
8am-4pm Saturday
9am-3pm Sunday

An annual event presented by the International Cordyline Society which provides an opportunity for collectors and passionate gardeners to purchase tropical foliage plants.

Fluffy Festival

18 November

Mayhem

24 November

Visit www.rnashowgrounds.com.au for more information on upcoming events and venue hire.

Cream of the Crop

Each year the RNA rewards EkKA exhibitors whose visual impact, customer service and thrill factor make their stand, ride or game stand out from the crowd.

For the RNA's Exhibitor Awards Committee, it's a matter of braving the rides, tasting the wines, and putting customer service to the ultimate test – in other words, walking in the shoes of every EkKA visitor. "It's a huge job, and one our judges take very seriously," said Show Leasing Manager, Don Savage. "An exhibitor award is a great thing for a small business to take from their time at the EkKA."

Congratulations to the following winners from the 2007 EkKA:

WOOLWORTHS FRESH FOOD PAVILION - FOOD

1. The Chill Factory
2. Carvery Catering (Chocolate Bananas)
3. Kingaroy Cheese

WOOLWORTHS FRESH FOOD PAVILION - WINE

1. O'Reillys Canungra Valley Vineyards
2. The Cedar Creek Estate Vineyard & Winery
3. Granite Ridge Wines

JOHN REID WOOL PAVILION

1. Tenterfield Saddler
2. Pearls for Girls
3. Ann Koh Jewellery
H/C Gecko Tots

GENERAL RIDE

1. Hard Rock, GA & RA Johnson
2. Power Surge, Better Amusements
Hire - Joylands
3. F1 Euro Slide, FJF Amusements
H/C Techno Jump, Laurie's Amusements

EXTREME RIDE

1. No Limit, No Limit Australia Trust
2. The Insanity, Phil Durkin Special Events
3. Extreme Speed Machine, Golden Way Amusements
H/C Slingshot, Phil Durkin Special Events

CHILDREN'S RIDE

1. Sky View Observation Wheel, Australian Tourist Attractions
2. Fun Slide, J Gill
3. Antique Carousel, Short Management
H/C Rockin Tug, Better Amusements
Hire - Joylands

GAME

1. Simpsons Wacky Water Raceway, FJF Amusements
2. Golden Basketball, Greenhalgh Amusements
3. Frog Hop, Cetek Pty Ltd



Chris Ganzer of Kingaroy Cheese is congratulated by the Honourable Margaret Keech MP. Kingaroy Cheese also won one gold and three silver medals in EkKA's Dairy Produce section.

RNA Future Directions Committee – calling for expressions of interest

Are you a member aged between 18 and 35, with a keen interest in the future of EkKA and the RNA? The Future Directions Committee is calling for expressions of interest from members who are passionate about the Show and issues pertinent to today's youth. To apply, submit an expression of interest in writing, along with a resume, to the RNA by Friday 9 November. ■

The RNA Youth Rural Career and Training Expo

The inaugural RNA Youth Rural Career and Training Expo on Tuesday 7 August was a huge success, with approximately 600 secondary students from throughout South East Queensland descending on the Energex Community Arena for a day of free activities and career advice.

The Expo highlighted the vast employment opportunities available in rural areas, and was designed to provide students with rural lifestyle and training pathways; exposure to our country's elite rural industries; and employment prospects at all levels of achievement.

Twenty exhibitors took the time to address students, including Suncorp, Australian Agricultural College Corporation, University of Queensland, Elders and North Australian Pastoral Company. Exhibitors and attendees were rewarded with a free sausage sizzle lunch, kindly provided by accountancy firm Walshs Practice.

"The Expo exposed high school students – particularly those who live in metropolitan areas – to the kind of career opportunities that exist beyond the boundaries of the city," explained RNA Chief Executive Jonathan Tunny. "So it was a really worthwhile experience for all involved."

A second Youth Rural Career and Training Expo is planned for 2008.

To express interest in participating, please phone the RNA's Education department on 07 3852 1831. ■



2007 Agricultural Scholarship winners

Ten students excelling in their agricultural studies at university were awarded RNA Coca-Cola Regional Scholarships during Ekka 2007.

Christine Baker, Kelvin Cochrane, Elspeth Dunne, Peter Gaffney, John Henry, Carmen Pearson, Scott Phelan, Charles Scott, Megan Sullivan and Stuart Walker each received a prize of \$2,000 to assist with university life, thanks to Coca-Cola and the Australian Agricultural College Corporation.

The RNA also pledged four \$3,000 bursaries to students studying at the Dalby, Emerald, Longreach and Burdekin Agricultural Colleges to assist with everyday expenses. Sam Bates (Emerald), James Cave (Burdekin), Danielle Kowaltzke (Longreach) and Justin Laird (Dalby) were rewarded for their academic achievements and commitment to their agricultural show. ■



Coca-Cola Asset and Sponsorship Manager Alex Bruinewoud congratulates winners of the RNA Coca-Cola Regional Scholarships at this year's Ekka



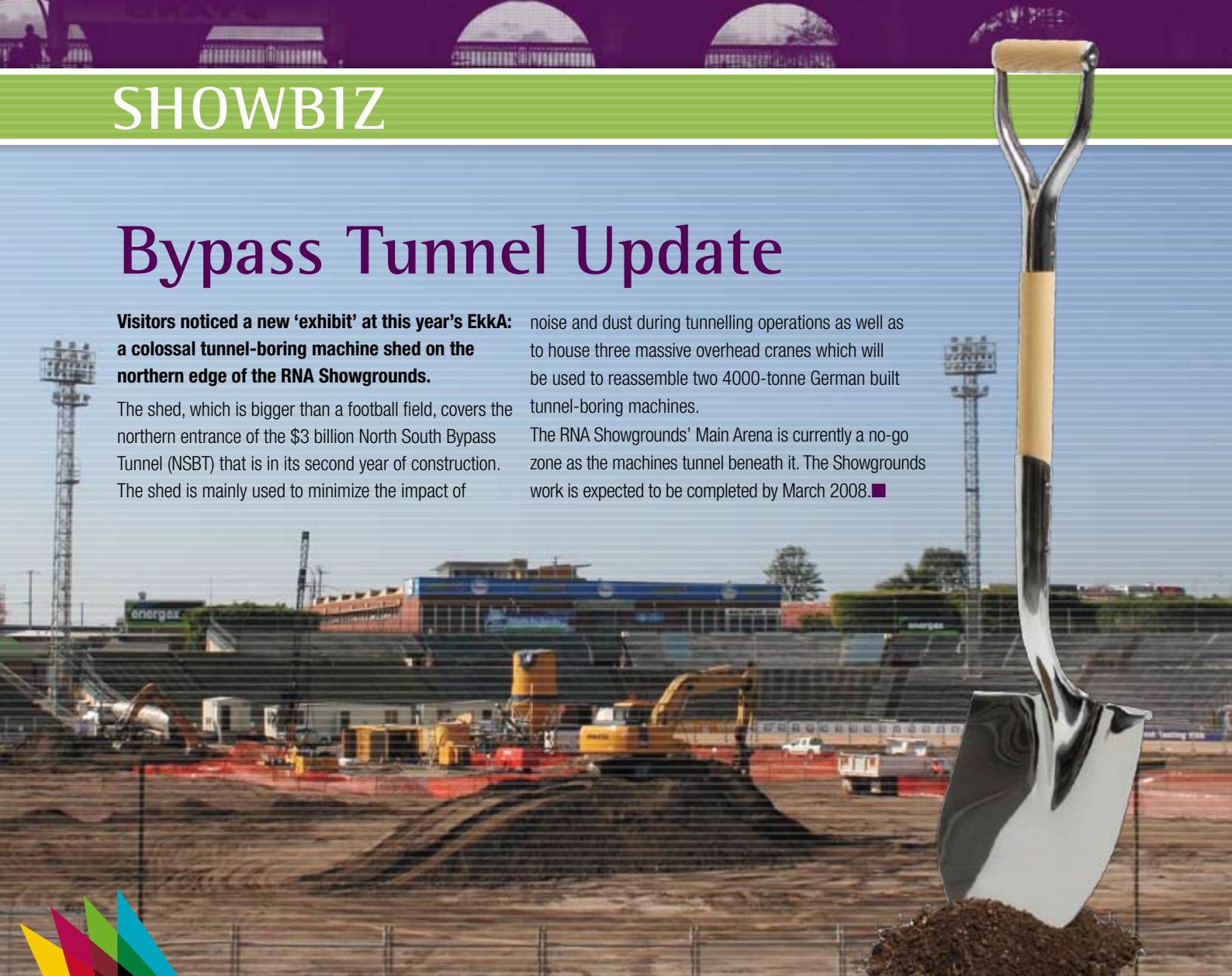
Bypass Tunnel Update

Visitors noticed a new 'exhibit' at this year's EkKA: a colossal tunnel-boring machine shed on the northern edge of the RNA Showgrounds.

The shed, which is bigger than a football field, covers the northern entrance of the \$3 billion North South Bypass Tunnel (NSBT) that is in its second year of construction. The shed is mainly used to minimize the impact of

noise and dust during tunnelling operations as well as to house three massive overhead cranes which will be used to reassemble two 4000-tonne German built tunnel-boring machines.

The RNA Showgrounds' Main Arena is currently a no-go zone as the machines tunnel beneath it. The Showgrounds work is expected to be completed by March 2008. ■



Queensland's 150th celebrations community art project

In 2009, Queensland will commemorate and celebrate the 150th anniversary of our state's independence from New South Wales.

A range of projects, events and celebrations are currently being planned throughout the state to mark and commemorate this significant milestone, from public art projects and music festivals to light shows and community funding.

The Q150 tessellated art project is a major public art initiative aimed at connecting communities across Queensland and creating an artistic legacy for the future.

Community groups throughout Queensland will be provided with identical tessellated shapes of 1.2m in height to decorate in a way that is representative of their community.

In addition, 450 Queensland artists, ceramicists, patch workers and needle workers will be invited in 2008 to participate in the development of three tessellation art pieces.

Two of the tessellated art pieces will tour throughout the state during 2009 prior to going on permanent display in a regional Queensland gallery.

The remaining tessellated art piece will be displayed permanently at the RNA Showgrounds.

The RNA is pleased to be associated with this state-wide community project and to partner with Queensland's 150th celebrations in creating a permanent public art display, which will form a legacy of the state's anniversary celebrations.

To learn more about the Q150 tessellated art project or the program of celebrations, visit www.Q150.qld.gov.au. ■

Coca-Cola Amatil raises \$20,000 for Qld farmers

Visitors to this year's Ekka helped Coca-Cola Amatil Queensland (CCAQ) raise \$20,000 for Queensland farmers by recycling plastic bottles and writing messages of hope for farmers affected by drought.

CCAQ launched its Message in a Bottle competition at the Ekka to encourage boys and girls to write a letter, poem or story of hope to families in rural areas as a sign of support during Australia's worst drought. Messages were collected in large Coke shaped bottles at CCAQ stands throughout the Ekka grounds.

In addition, CCAQ introduced "burp bins" to encourage recycling which were a big hit with show crowds. A device on the bin made a burping noise each time a plastic bottle was recycled. A total of 73 wheelie bins of plastic bottles were collected in ten days which meant 17,000 litres of waste was saved from entering landfill.

CCAQ State Manager Ross Morgan said people living in the city can easily forget the harsh realities of the drought

when not faced with it every day.

"We decided to hold the 'Message in a Bottle' campaign during Ekka because it's the one time of year when the city and country meet and kids can see firsthand why water is so important – not only for consumption but for the survival of a farm and its animals," Mr Morgan said.

One visitor who showed their support was 11 year old Bridget Greathead from Banyo on Brisbane's Northside. Her heart-felt poem was chosen from thousands of entries which won her family a \$2,000 rainwater tank.

Bridget's winning poem is as follows:

*Be hopeful farmers that the drought will end,
One day be sure the rain will descend.
We'll all pray for rain because it's on you
we rely,
For our drinks, foods and maybe my dad's tie.*

Salvation Army Divisional Public Relations Secretary (South Queensland Division) Captain Peter Sutcliffe said he was impressed by Bridget's prose.

"When I read Bridget's poem, it reinforced to me that farmers aren't forgotten. I could see Bridget was a young girl from the city with a real concern for what's happening in the bush," Captain Sutcliffe said.

"The \$20,000 raised by CCAQ will be used to continue the Army's support services in keeping rural Queensland households together. We recognise we can't do it all ourselves and that's why Coca-Cola Amatil Queensland's support is so valuable," he said.

For more information about CCA's world's best practice water efficiencies visit the 2006 Sustainability report "Citizenship@CCA" at www.ccamatil.com ■

Captain Peter Sutcliffe of the Salvation Army and Coca-Cola Amatil's Genevieve Mahony with the \$20,000 cheque



Snapshot

RNA Marketing Assistant David Frangiosa overcame stiff competition to be crowned overall winner in the second annual Staff Slide-Off at this year's Ekka. He's congratulated here by F1 Euroslide owner, Jamie Pickett.



Tourism Queensland Award Submission

The highly competitive Tourism Queensland Awards are designed to encourage, acknowledge and reward valuable contributions and outstanding achievements in industry development. This year the RNA entered the Awards with an extensive submission that delved into all aspects of Ekka activities, and showcased the full range of activities and initiatives undertaken by the RNA in order to deliver this major Queensland event now in its 131st year.

Entries closed on 17 August 2007 with prize-winners being announced at the Awards night to be held on Saturday 10 November in Townsville. ■





The 2007 winner of the Jack Ambler Memorial Prize for Champion Portrait of Show, Trevor Salisbury.

Beauty and the Beholder:

Trevor Salisbury, 2007 winner of Jack Ambler Memorial Prize – Champion Portrait of Show

As a high-flying commercial artist and designer with successful exhibitions both here and overseas, Trevor Salisbury (this year's winner of the prestigious Jack Ambler Memorial Prize) has undergone a 'sea-change'; severing all ties with the commercial art world to move up a mountain and reflect on the world's beauty.

How to... bake a prize-winning sponge

According to Peter Lloyd Jones the secret to baking a prize-winning sponge is all in the eggs. Peter's advice is to use the freshest free range eggs available because these gain better aeration and, as anyone who knows sponge cake will tell you, it's all about the fluffiness. Peter knows if he's baking a winner as soon as he starts whisking. But we don't expect anything less from this Bundaberg resident who has been baking up a storm for the last twenty-five years and who recently took out first-prize places in all three sponge cake divisions at this year's Royal Queensland Show.

Peter graciously shares with us his recipe for success...

INGREDIENTS

5 eggs at room temperature (65grams each)
1 cup caster sugar (200grams)
3/4 cup plain flour
1/2 cup corn flour
1 tablespoon butter
3 tablespoons hot water
1/2 tsp bi carb soda
1 heaped tsp cream of tartar

INSTRUCTIONS

Beat eggs for ten minutes then gradually add sugar for next ten minutes and beat for another three minutes. Sift flours, bi carb and cream of tartar together four times. Melt butter in three tablespoons of boiling water.

Gently fold sifted flour into egg mixture with a spatula, then add hot water and butter.

Fold this until well combined.

Divide mixture into two greased 18 cm sponge tins. Weigh mixture when putting in tins so that they are equal. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Celsius (not fan forced) and bake sponges for 28

minutes. Turn out onto wire racks covered with tea towels and then turn back again onto wire racks covered with greaseproof paper to let them cool.

PETER'S PRO TIPS

- Be sure to use the freshest ingredients you possibly can
- Only use free range eggs because they rise
- Make sure the oven heats to the correct temperature
- Check your measurements – any dash of this, dash of that will throw the ratios out
- Invest in a good mix master and good baking tins

Peter says that the only other thing needed to make a prize-winning sponge is years and years of practice...

...so get baking!



Born and raised in Auckland, New Zealand, Trevor spent a lifetime studying and honing his skills, achieving a three-year diploma in Graphic Design, and studying under Ray Dowling and Ken Robinson before setting himself up as a commercial artist in Sydney.

In 1984, Trevor moved to Europe and set up his studio in Stockholm where he had two successful solo exhibitions at Galleriet Bergsradsvagen and married his now-wife Marie.

Moving back to Sydney in 1986 with Marie, Trevor worked commercially for 17 years as a designer and illustrator. In 2002, Trevor decided to dedicate his professional life to fine art and made a 'sea-change' moving up to Tamborine Mountain with his wife and their three children. There, Trevor has a purpose-built studio overlooking stunning mountain forest and the Pacific Ocean.

Were your parents an influence on your career?

I was influenced at an early age by my mother who was also an artist, so I started painting when I was very little.

Who are your greatest artistic influences?

I am a keen student of art history and the evolution of the human response to sensibility, and have many influences, but notably Turner, Velazquez, Zorn, Friedrich, Tuymans, Terpning and Calibey.

How would you describe your style of art?

My style is ever changing and refining. Presently the practice of painting is my focus; although sculpture and gallery installation art are also potential future creative outlets.

Where is your inspiration drawn from?

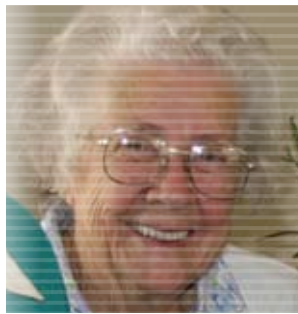
My inspiration primarily comes from the need to reflect the beauty that surrounds us: harnessing breathtaking grandiose or austere simplicity. I would like my work to be seen as graphically poetic, with a difference.

The judges, when commenting on your winning painting

'One hundred %, take 46', commented that: "This painting of a man by a silo was chosen for its fresh look at the man on the land. The judges especially admired the artist's 'blue sky' vision which used a variety of tones in this colour". What was the artistic motivation behind this painting?

The inspiration for this work is from a trip taken out west in 2006. Our land is vast and thirsty. Farmers do it tough, especially in times of drought. The massive grain silos are symbols of strength in the face of struggle. They optimistically rise up over the dead, dry tree and they declare that they will be filled time and time again for generations to come. ■

Fine Arts exhibiting wisdom



from Steward Audrey Fleming

Coconut-ice was what started Mrs Audrey Fleming's twenty-three year involvement with the RNA. The Fine Arts aficionado will never forget the first time she entered the Royal Queensland Show with her coconut-ice taking out first place; but the ribbon was lost in the post!

Over the next eight years Mrs Fleming entered her cakes, jams, scones, knitting, crocheting, fancy work, and paper quilling in the Show, proving her grasp on all things creative. "It was good fun exhibiting; some years you won and some years you didn't," Mrs Fleming said.

The Stafford resident became a Fine Arts Steward after a friend at her children's school tuckshop mentioned that she knew a Councillor at the RNA. Mrs Fleming had always wanted to be a Steward and immediately volunteered for a position. That was sixteen years ago and she hasn't looked back.

"I have learnt a lot over the years. Little hints and tips that make your Exhibition entries stand out and look professional," she said.

Volunteering is a big part of Mrs Fleming's life. For years she was a member of the CWA and now uses her skills to make clothes and knitted toys for children in third world countries through the Guardian Chemist program.

AUDREY FLEMING'S 23 YEARS OF HINTS FOR EXHIBITING SUCCESS

- Stand your mixing bowl on a wet cloth to prevent it moving around
- When transporting your cake in the car, stand it on a piece of foam to stop it from moving around (also good for transporting wedding cakes)
- For a fruit cake with a glossy top, pat your wet hands on the top before putting it in a slow oven and then gradually turn up the heat.
- Don't test baked goods with a skewer to see if they're cooked in the middle as you can see the hole it leaves.
- Never scrape the bowl out into the tin when baking a cake because it will look lumpy
- If your oven is too hot it will make the cake rise quickly and it will crack
- For sponges weigh the mixture and the tins to make sure they are equal. This will ensure same size cakes and will give you more points
- When baking, drop your tin with the mixture in it from waist high twice to lose the air bubbles
- Cavendish bananas (the riper the better) are best for banana cakes
- When cakes are cooked, turn them out onto a towel that covers a cooling rack and put a tea towel over the top to stop any marking
- When decorating cakes, don't put all the decorations in the centre because you have to allow for the judges to cut down the centre. ■

Dancing Dogs! You'd better believe it!

The old adage, 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks', is not true according to Toowoomba based dog trainer Coral Pethers who began schooling her German Shepherd Kasha in the art of dance and performance when she was a mature seven years old.

Kasha had reached the highest level in both Tracking and Obedience and was looking for something different to branch into, so three years ago Coral began teaching her to dance.

With a training program that rivals that of the Australian Ballet, Coral and Kasha were part of a canine troupe that entertained visitors at this year's Ekka.

"This is something you have to see to believe. It takes musicality and imagination in choreography, but most of all a close partnership between the dog and the trainer," Coral said.

"Any dog can dance but of course the more agile breeds are going to look flashier."

This form of training and performance is relatively new to Australia and Coral hopes to develop it over the next couple of years into something like the competitions in Europe and America.

Coral explains dancing is a great way to get you and your dog working together and to get your dog to respect you in terms of obedience.

As for Kasha, she plans to hang-up her dancing shoes at the end of the year, but her successor-a sprightly two-year-old German Shepherd named Grande-is already in training.

Also in the canine-dancing troupe performing at this year's Ekka was Gay Westmore and her Golden Retriever, Gemma; Ros Smith and her Labrador, Banjo; and Kylie Wood and her Labrador, Kiera, performing a pas de deux with Sacha Beetson and her Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Gemba. ■



Coral Pethers and her dog Kasha performed at the Ekka Media Launch in July



Young journalists born at Ekka Show Camp

“Two terriers are better than one”; “I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice-cream”; “Four legged fashion”; “It almost rained on our parade” – with headlines like these, who wouldn’t want to read all about it?

Twenty junior journalists from across the state rolled into the RNA Showgrounds, charged with reporting all things Ekka 2007.

This is Show Camp. Now in its 79th year, Show Camp is an Ekka institution; a tradition unique to the Royal Queensland Show that is proudly sponsored by Education Queensland, Marsh Pty Ltd and the RNA.

The Show Campers, students who have been selected from state primary schools throughout Queensland based on their exceptional communication and writing skills, live-in at the Royal Queensland Show to capture and deliver reports on up-to-the-minute Ekka activities.

“Show Camp is a unique opportunity for students to learn new skills, make new friends and look behind the scenes at the largest annual event in Queensland,” said Camp organiser Keith Enchelmaier.

This year, the Show Campers were armed with up-to-the-minute digital sound technology and produced three printed editions of the Show Camp Courier. They also engaged with new forms of communication such as video and Podcasts which were distributed over the Show Camp website. The award-winning Show Camp Courier is distributed to classmates, families and the general Ekka public.

2008 marks the 80th anniversary of Show Camp, and the RNA invites campers past and present to join in the celebrations and share their memories.

To get involved, phone Keith Enchelmaier on 07 3552 7111. ■



RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards, Councillor Joan Scott and Camp organiser Keith Enchelmaier congratulate 2007 Show Campers on a job well done



Depression isn’t just feeling sad or upset; it can be a serious condition that around one million Australian adults live with each year. Of these, 300,000 live in rural areas.

Ms Leonie Young, CEO of beyondblue: the national depression initiative said: “People in rural communities are used to toughing it out and have always been extremely resilient. However, it’s these same qualities of self-sufficiency and resolve which can sometimes make country people – particularly men – less inclined to seek help for problems like depression.”

beyondblue has recently developed a Drought Info Kit specifically for people in rural areas, containing a wide range of information including national helpline numbers, websites and stress relief tips. To order a free kit, or for more information on depression and anxiety, go to www.beyondblue.org.au or call the beyondblue info line on 1300 22 4636 (cost of a local call).

beyondblue: the national depression initiative is a not-for-profit organisation that works with all tiers of government, schools, service organisations, the media and business to help raise awareness about depression and reduce the associated stigma. ■

Junior Farmers’ Reunion a Success

This year the RNA hosted a reunion to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Junior Farmers’ Organisation which was founded in 1947.

180 past members and organisers, friends and advisors gathered to meet for the first time in years.

Event organiser Ken Gold said that most of the talk was about ‘old times’ and to honour those people who made it all possible through dedicated service to the concept.

“As a result of the celebration, efforts have begun to revive the once great organisation which could boast more than 200 clubs and over 3,000 members,” Ken said.

“We feel that something like the old structure, albeit with a twenty-first century face, might be brought back to life and play a small part in the Ekka event again,” he said. ■

The RNA wishes to thank all of the organisations that supported the 2007 Show. See you in 2008!

Sponsor thank you...