

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.

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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'

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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



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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

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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

‘Rydgges’ – 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**



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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

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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

