

# SHOWBIZ

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

Spring 2009

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WIN Movie Passes

3 family passes to see  
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*Well, the festive season is almost upon us, Ekka is over for another year and work has already begun for Ekka 2010 at the RNA Showgrounds.*

Ekka 2009 was my final Show – in my official capacity as RNA President (of course I will be back next year as a visitor) – and can I say I was incredibly proud to see such a high level of competition and achievement; alongside top quality exhibitors and a veritable feast of entertainment.

I never tire of seeing the pure joy and delight on the faces of those who visit the Ekka and those who compete in its many competitions.

We were honoured to welcome back this year Her Excellency Governor-General Quentin Bryce AC, who officially opened the Show and was, without a doubt, a favourite among the crowd that evening.

I was particularly pleased with the public's response to the Woolworth's Fresh Food Pavilion and Taste of Queensland Kitchen this year. The RNA's renewed focus on food competitions and the launch of the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show and Deli Bag will see this brand and area of competition develop significantly over the coming years and set a new direction for the RNA.

Education will be another major focus for the RNA in 2010, during and outside of Showtime, with an emphasis on interactive, hands-on learning and experiences for children that embrace all elements of the RNA's charter.

Queensland should feel proud to have such a great event on its doorstep. And it's good to know that the Ekka and its enduring character will be maintained in Brisbane's inner-city Showgrounds for many years to come.

Over the coming months we will have plenty to update you on in respect to the Redevelopment. In this edition of Showbiz we introduce you to the RNA Redevelopment Project Director Steven Grimes and some members of his team.

We also look at some of this year's Ekka highlights and pay tribute to the Champions of Show. Particular recognition goes to Don Ross Senior, who was named RNA Show Legend for 2009 for his contribution to the Ekka night program over many years. His Chariot races never fail to get the crowd excited.

Congratulations also to the RNA's 2009 Agricultural Student Bursary winners: Jessica Gault from Dalby; Helen Vardill from Longreach; Kate Jackson from Emerald and Danica Helsdon from Burdekin. Our winners this year demonstrate the strong representation of women in all areas of agricultural study.

Thank you to our outgoing RNA Future Directions Committee Chair Bryce Camm for his dedication to the role. Bryce retired from the position in August and we welcome Kirstie Fossett to the position of Chairperson. FDC general elections also saw Joseph O'Brien appointed to the position of Vice-Chair and Rebecca Gowen to Junior Vice-Chair.

Till next time...

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vivian Edwards".

Dr Vivian Edwards OAM

Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General, inspects the front rank at the official opening of the 2009 Royal Queensland Show.



We don't know what these Ekka patrons are looking at, but it's got them excited.



## INTRODUCING RECENTLY APPOINTED RNA COUNCILLOR PROFESSOR PETER LITTLE

*Peter Little is a Professor of Business Law and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). He is a Barrister at Law and holds a Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws and a PhD. He is a director of Ormiston College Ltd and is a Special Counsel to McCullough Robertson Lawyers.*

Professor Little's current professional interests include corporate governance, compliance law and the law of company takeovers.

Business is QUT's largest faculty, attracting over a quarter of the university's enrolments, and is one of the largest business faculties in Australia. Through various collaborations with industry and professional bodies, QUT is a key

player in the business community with extensive local and international links.

Professor Little looks forward to bringing his experience in education and business to the RNA, to further encourage the development of careers and business opportunities, especially in agriculture, manufacturing and industry; areas of particular interest to the RNA's member base.

## CUTTING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT

### Would you prefer to receive your quarterly Showbiz by email?

The RNA is investigating an e-news option for Showbiz, so please tell us if you would prefer to receive your quarterly Showbiz in your inbox rather than your mailbox!

Simply send your Name, Postal Address and Email Address to [showbiz@rnashowgrounds.com.au](mailto:showbiz@rnashowgrounds.com.au) and write YES in the subject line and we'll add you to our email database.

Tell us also what you like or dislike about Showbiz and you'll go into the draw to win an RNA Membership or Membership Renewal.



## DIARY DATE

### The Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth welcomes you to Scotland in 2010.

The 24th Commonwealth Agricultural Conference will be held from 21st June to 6th July next year in Edinburgh.

For more information visit [www.commagshow.org](http://www.commagshow.org) or email [RASC2010@experiencescotland.co.uk](mailto:RASC2010@experiencescotland.co.uk)





# OH, WHAT A SHOW....



*There were many highlights from this year's Ekka. Showbiz looks at some of the most popular attractions for '09.*



## Sunny Queen Little Miracles Newborn Corner

Thanks to the support of Sunny Queen Farms, Little Miracles was created for Ekka '09 to give city kids the opportunity to see what most country kids see quite regularly – animal birthing. The anticipation was quite intense at the beginning of Show as we all waited for the very first lamb to be born. People returned four or five times a day to check on the progress of labour! The Newborn Corner was a big hit with the crowds. All up, 40 healthy and happy lambs were born throughout the Show.

**2,600** Beef Cattle  
and **2,944** dogs  
were entered into competition.  
**150** chickens were born  
during Ekka '09.

## Fashion Workshops

Fashion and fashion parades have always been an Ekka favourite, so this year we thought of taking it one step further. The Ekka 2009 daily fashion workshops attracted big crowds of ladies who were treated to a free workshop on current fashion trends and how to wear them. Hosted by Leigh Muirhead at The

**14** models did  
**54** parades over 7 days  
**100** outfits in total  
**5,292** outfit changes.

Sunday Mail Fashion Stage, Ekka visitors garnered tips on how to *recession proof your wardrobe; dress for your body shape; and key seasonal trends*. A few lucky patrons also won personal styling sessions. Move over Trinny and Susannah, the Ekka Fashion Workshops will be back next year to work some more fashion magic.

## Interactive Backyards

SignatureBrisbane continues to boost the personality of our city by promoting the characteristics that make Brisbane unique; with residents and the community benefiting from the increased attention paid to Brisbane's artistic and environmental health. For Ekka '09 SignatureBrisbane created an outstanding interactive landscape to showcase the changing face of our backyards from the 1960's to some of the most contemporary. Patrons saw first hand how to recycle products to decorate the yard and how to create a backyard habitat to encourage wildlife corridors between homes.

**An RNA Event Coordinator walked 146.6 kilometres (that's 200,912 steps according to his pedometer!)**



## Sunday Sunset Concert

Proving once again that Queenslanders love their music outdoors, the Ekka Sunday Sunset Concert with the Ten Tenors delighted thousands of Ekka visitors. People threw out their picnic rugs on the green alongside Sideshow Alley, tucked into cheese platters, sipped on vino, and breathed in the melodic tones of the Ten Tenors. The weather was glorious and the atmosphere serene.

## Channel Nine Broadcast Centre

Channel Nine Queensland was the dedicated television partner for Ekka 2009 and, in what was a first for the broadcaster, it took its 6pm bulletin out of the studio to broadcast LIVE from the RNA Showgrounds. A new attraction for Ekka '09, more than 35,000 people passed through the purpose built centre for a sneak peak behind the scenes of a working television studio. In total over ten hours of LIVE TV came out of the RNA Showgrounds including NINE News, Mornings with Kerri-Anne Kennerley and the TODAY Show weather with Steve Jacobs.



## FUN EKKA 2009 FACTS

*National Foods Limited (Dairy Farmers) broke their daily sales record for the \$1 COON toasties with 3,040 sold on People's Day, beating the daily sales record of the Sydney Royal Easter Show.*

*The Chairlift travelled in excess of 400km over the ten days.*

*4,000 fire-fighters calendars were sold with proceeds going to the Royal Brisbane Hospital Burns Unit.*



*The power of Red - on average 1,000 punnets of strawberries were sold daily from the Brisbane Markets Agricultural Hall and 6.5 tonnes of strawberries were used in the legendary Ekka Sundaes.*

*225 Showtime FMX ramp jumps were performed for the Ekka IgNITES night-time program.*

*The Ekka Adventure Trail kits were a big hit this year with 3,500 sold, compared to 1,680 in 2008.*



# MORE THAN TEN DAYS IN AUGUST

*Competition planning for the 2010 Royal Queensland Show (RQS) is full steam ahead and there are some new competitions in the wings.*

The essence of all Royal Shows across Australia is in its competition. It's the foundation of Ekka and involves close to 30,000 individuals who are driven to compete in their field. In some circumstances a win at the Show will translate to a significant 'bottom line' increase for a competitor's business.

"As far as competition goes, the Royal Queensland Show is the one you want to win," said cattle competitor David Bondfield.

"It's the most prestigious, the most recognised, and the most sought after title."

RQS judging is conducted by leaders in their field, with stewards and associate judges who are also trained and skilled in the area they are evaluating. A strict judging criteria is set and adhered to throughout the judging process.

"Judging at the Show is tough," said Allan Warby Senior Vice President and Councillor in charge of beef cattle judging at the Show.

"It's robust and thorough and judged

by the industry's best, on industry best practice.

"It's little wonder a win is significant and means a lot to the competitor," he said.

Thirty-five major categories are judged at the Show. Each of these major categories then has many hundred sections of judging.

RNA Chief Operating Officer Brendan Christou said not too many people would realise that Royal Queensland Show judging begins as early as May, months ahead of the gates opening for the ten-day Ekka festival.

"It's a very big deal and months of preparation go into a competition entry, regardless of what competition you enter."



## PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

*Here are our 2009 Royal Queensland Show Grand Champions. These are the ones to beat in 2010! The RNA pays tribute to their demonstrated dedication, skill and expertise.*

### STUD BEEF

#### Champion of Champion Breed Pair Charolais

Bull – Gobongo Castlemaine – Gobongo Cattle Company, Jackson QLD

Cow – Gobongo Juliette B43E(P) – Gobongo Cattle Company, Jackson QLD



Cattle judges in action

### Interbreed Champion Small Breeds

Bull – Kia Kaha Whero (Dexter) – JM & MF Cole, Ebenezer QLD

Cow or Heifer – Vitulus Beauty Queen ET (Australian Lowline) – M Hayes, Thornton QLD

### PRIME BEEF

#### Grand Champion Pen

Limousin – Mrs WJ Kummerow, Pittsworth QLD

### LED STEER

#### Grand Champion Led Steer

Champion Junior Steer St Johns College, Dubbo NSW

#### Grand Champion Led Steer Carcase

Champion Lightweight Carcase – M Hayes, Thornton QLD

### THOROUGHBREDS

#### Supreme Champion Thoroughbred

Champion Mare – Comely Look – Arcardia Thoroughbreds, Oakey QLD



## STUD HORSES

### Supreme Champion Australian Stockhorse

Champion Stallion – Royale Heartache  
– A McLennan-Dehnert & P Dehnert,  
Southbrook QLD

### Supreme Champion Clydesdale

Champion Mare – Duncan Valley Tiffany  
– W, M & R Goodall, Toowoomba QLD

### Supreme Champion Riding Pony

Champion Mare – Rathowen Scarlet  
Ribbons – PW, SA & NK George,  
Tallai QLD

## HORSES IN ACTION

### Champion Hack of Queensland

SLM High Profile – P, L & L Widdowson,  
Nerang QLD

### Champion Lady Rider

Ms A Hyles, Moree NSW

### Champion Galloway Hack of Queensland

Rathowen Envy – NM Jamieson,  
Doonan QLD

### Champion Pony Hack of Queensland 12.2 hands and under

Langtree Jazzman – Douglas Family,  
Greenbank QLD

### Champion Hackney Horse in Harness

Ashwood Gold Moss – V Corvi &  
T Cowan, Elimbah QLD

## SHOWJUMPING

### Champion Showjumping Rider of Show

B Warren, Traveston QLD

## DAIRY CATTLE

### Supreme Dairy Cow of Show

Gayton Park Leader Bianca (Holstein-  
Friesian) – Leader Holsteins, Oakey QLD

## CANINE

### Best in Show

Gr Ch Driftway Special Envoy (Labrador  
Retriever) – G Spagnolo, Dural NSW



Best in Show 2009

## POULTRY/BIRDS

### Grand Champion Fowl of Show

Champion Indian Game – Dark (Hen) –  
RA & DR Lait, Nambour QLD

### Grand Champion Canary of Show

Champion Border Fancy – I A King,  
Tarragindi QLD

## ROYAL QUEENSLAND WINE SHOW

### Champion Wine from Trophy Winning Wines

Mount Pleasant Lovedale 2003 –  
McWilliams Wines, Hanwood NSW

## BRANDED BEEF

### Champion Branded Beef of Show

Darling Downs Wagyu – Australian  
Agriculture Company, Morningside QLD

## DAIRY PRODUCE

### Grand Champion Dairy Product of Show

Champion Cheese – Tasmanian  
Heritage Signature Blue 1.5kg – National  
Foods, Burnie TAS



Gelato judging at this year's Show

## OLIVE OIL

### Champion Extra Virgin Olive Oil Of Show

Coratina – Yarrow Park, Darlington  
Point NSW

## BOER GOATS

### Champion Standard Boer Goat –

Mugambie Stud NSW

### Champion Red Boer Goat – Wayne and Bree Bourne Sarina North QLD

## DAIRY GOATS

### Supreme Dairy Doe of Show

Glen Warri Pleiades – Saanen –  
Mrs D Richards, Bridgeman Downs QLD

## ANGORA GOATS

### Grand Champion Angora Goat

Tagora 2466 – Tagora Angora Stud,  
Felton South QLD



The eldest competitor in the underhand axeman  
competition Henry Winkel, was also this  
year's Champion

## ALPACA

### Supreme Champion Huacaya

Champion Junior Male – Hilldale Park  
Spartan – A Harker & B Hambrook,  
Invergowrie NSW

## WOOL

### Grand Champion Fleece of Show

JF & AM Doak, Bundarra NSW

## PISCICULTURE

### Champion Fish of Show

Cat Fish – G Parker, Mt Cotton QLD

## QUILTS ACROSS QUEENSLAND

### Best of Show

"Grace" – R Mallett, Kenmore QLD

## FINE ARTS

### Cookery

### Grand Champion Cake

### Decorating Exhibit

P Herrmann, Churchill QLD

### Creative Art and Craft

### Grand Champion Exhibit

"Dreaming" Woodwork – K Stark,  
Beachmere QLD

### Painting and Drawing

### Champion Portrait of Show

"Curls" – PJ Kennedy, Tarragindi QLD

### Photography

### Champion Print

"New Farm Park" – JP Stein,  
Eatons Hill QLD

## WOODCHOP AND SAWING

### Champion Underhand

### Axeman of Show

HP Winkel, Dorrigo NSW

### Champion Standing Block

### Axeman of Show

B De Losa, Lithgow NSW



The Melbourne Showgrounds' Town Square

## DEVELOPING ROYAL SHOWS

*Brisbane's RNA Showgrounds is not alone in its need for significant revitalisation. Improvements have been made to Showground facilities across Australia over the past two decades.*

In April this year the South Australian Minister for Urban Development and Planning Paul Holloway announced the State Government's plan to rezone the Adelaide Showground. Mr Holloway said the rezoning would allow the Showground to be transformed into an entertainment precinct that expanded its capacity beyond hosting exhibitions and the annual Royal Adelaide Show.

"Rather than limit its use to exhibitions and the annual show, the proposed rezoning will allow the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society to examine a broader range of uses for this site," he said.

In 1998 the Sydney Showground opened at its new home in the suburb of Homebush Bay NSW. It was opened as a venue for the Sydney 2000 Olympics and to replace the ageing Sydney Showground in Moore Park. The Sydney Showground is used for the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The Melbourne Showgrounds is now Melbourne's largest and most versatile venue following its \$108 million redevelopment. Features of the redeveloped site include a Grand Pavilion, a Town Square, revitalized main entrance and boulevard, new exhibition space and an outdoor animal competition area.

RNA Chief Executive Jonathan Tunny said a redeveloped RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane's inner city suburb of Bowen Hills would add enormous value and appeal to Brisbane City, from a cultural and business perspective.

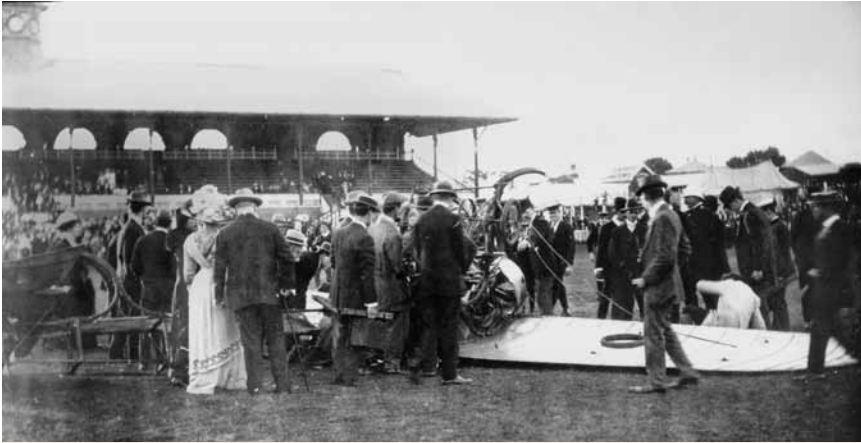
"By keeping the Showgrounds in the city centre and developing its uses, Queensland is in the enviable position of being able to retain the original character and charm of the site and the character of the Ekka.

"Ekka will continue to be an event where the country truly does converge on the city. Only in the future, the two will unite in far superior facilities," he said.

*Below: Modernised pavilions now house exhibitors at the Royal Melbourne Show; and below right: The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria's new contemporary Administration Building.*







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The Brisbane Courier-Mail headline for this day in 1912 read: **UP IN THE AIR.**  
*Brisbane's First Aeroplane Ascent.*  
*A Sensational Ending.*

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## RNA SHOWGROUNDS FLASHBACK

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*On Saturday 6 July 1912, Brisbane witnessed its first aeroplane flight, when the American airman Arthur Burr (Wizard) Stone made a successful ascent from the Exhibition Grounds, in front of a crowd of close to 8,000 spectators gathered around the Main Oval.*

Many paid an extra shilling to inspect the machine that was to carry the intrepid airman. The plane was housed in a tent to the north of the John MacDonald Grandstand.

Adding to the excitement, Stone's Bleriot executed a somersault and then crashed upon landing. While the machine suffered, Stone escaped with only bruises.

## We have a long history of helping Australian farmers reach their goals.



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# CREAM OF THE CROP

*With so much choice in the supermarket aisles these days, it's hard to know if what you purchase is in fact what you were hoping for.*

At least when you buy a bottle of wine, if you are not a connoisseur or viticulturalist, you can still be guided by the Gold, Silver and Bronze medal stickers awarded at Royal Shows such as the Royal Queensland Wine Show.

Now when choosing fine foods you can be guided by the same medal stickers.

At this year's Ekka, the RNA launched the **Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show** (RQFWS), which aims to create a unified and consistently high level of judging and a recognised RNA fine foods brand.

Newly appointed RQFWS Chairman of Judges for food competitions Russell Smith said all food, beverages and wine at the Show were judged with the highest level of rigour and integrity.

"The RQFWS is already regarded as one of Australia's premium level food and wine awards," Mr Smith said.



"Our aim in the future is to have those prestigious medal winning stickers on all winning produce from lamb to chocolate, so consumers know that the product has undergone robust judging and been awarded Grand Champion status by industry peers.

"The competition process will result in key learnings for producers and an overall improvement of the product for consumers," he said.

Once the competition gains momentum and recognition among food and beverage producers, the RNA will turn its focus to promoting the brand to consumers, to raise awareness of the judging process and medal award system.

"It means that in the future, when you purchase a product with a Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show medal on the label, you can be sure you are getting the very best in that product range," Mr Smith said.



*Introducing 'Russell Smith, the newly appointed Chairman of Judges for food competitions at the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show'.*

Russell's passion for primary produce and its origins was probably first kindled as a 12 year old growing up in Toowoomba, where before school he helped his father deliver fresh milk collected from a dairy farm on the city's outskirts. Since then his entire life has been about food – growing it, cooking it, selling it and judging it. In 2002 he was invited to judge for the Australian Speciality Cheese Association in Melbourne and continues to do so. He has judged cheese, pasta, deli meats and regional foods at the Royal Sydney Show for many years and in 2006 assisted South Australian cheese makers in the establishment of their own Show. He has been Deputy Chief Judge for the Australian Grand Dairy Awards since 2004 and has recently been appointed Master Judge for the New Zealand Cheese Awards. Russell runs regular cheese appreciation courses for the general consumer and restaurant industry. He is a contributing editor to Regional Food Australia Magazine and its website and has a regular regional food segment on ABC radio in Canberra.



## YOU'VE REACHED THE PEAK... NOW GET THE RECOGNITION YOU DESERVE

If you're an Australian producer with a passion for excellence, enter the **2010 Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show**. Contact [entries@rna.org.au](mailto:entries@rna.org.au) for full details of the following competitions:

Dairy Produce Show	10 –12 May
Branded Lamb Competition (New)	31 May
Branded Beef Competition (6th year)	1 June
Royal Queensland Wine Show	27 June – 2 July
Olive Oil Show	12 and 13 July
Sausage King Competition State Final (New)	8 August
Beer Competition (New)	5 and 6 October



Steven Grimes,  
Project Director  
RNA Showgrounds  
Redevelopment

## RNA SHOWGROUNDS MASTERPLAN REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

*The RNA has moved fast to put in place a Project Team to deliver the RNA Showgrounds Masterplan Redevelopment over the next 10 years.*

In September, Steven Grimes was appointed Project Director to oversee the RNA's role with its project partner, Lend Lease, in the delivery of the \$3 billion redevelopment.

Steven has more than 22 years professional experience in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States delivering award winning, large scale, mixed use developments. Previous positions include Team Leader for Lend Lease Water Alliance on the Gold Coast and Development Operations Manager and Project Director for Actus Lend Lease in the United States.

The role of Project Director essentially involves the delivery of the project on time and on budget. Steven will have the overall responsibility for the successful planning, execution, monitoring, control and closure of the RNA Showgrounds project.

"This is a very exciting project for Brisbane and an important one for Queensland," Mr Grimes said.

"The RNA Showgrounds covers such a significant landmass and has an intrinsic character and cultural status that all eyes will be on this site.

"The RNA has a responsibility and a

great opportunity to create something inspiring and special for the people of Queensland who have loved these Showgrounds for many years.

"It's wonderful to be involved with a project that will engage a community and create a place and space for the public to enjoy all year round, day and night," he said.

Project Analyst Brendan Hannan joined the RNA in October 2009 and will assist Steven in the analysis and delivery of the project. Brendan trained as a Chartered Accountant with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, moving on to focus his career in property development and investment. Brendan joins us with an impressive background in property finance having worked with organisations including a privately owned property investment company, South Street Investment Management (UK) and developer Lend Lease Corporation (both in the UK and Australia).

Brendan's core skills include financial modelling and financial management of property investments and development projects. His role on the RNA project will be to provide all forms of analysis conducive to the RNA Redevelopment.

## BETTER FACILITIES FOR SHOW COMPETITORS

*Construction work on the RNA Showgrounds Masterplan Redevelopment begins in early 2010. So what does this mean for RQS competitions next year and in years to come?*

### **Will RQS competitions continue in 2010 and beyond?**

Yes, absolutely. There will be no interruption to the running of Royal Queensland Show Competitions next year or in years to come.

### **Will the location for competition judging and display change in 2010 for some competition categories?**

The majority of competition displays and judging will remain in exactly the same location as previous years. There will be a minor location change for some Dairy Cattle judging.

### **Will the number and variety of competitions be reduced for the 2010 RQS?**

Not at all. In fact for 2010, the RNA will introduce a number of new competition categories and will expand its Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show competition brand.

### **Will how I enter the competition change for next year's Show?**

The process and procedure for entering a RQS competition will remain the same. A competition schedule will be mailed to you and will be available on-line.

### **If I need further information or assistance about competitions at the Royal Queensland Show in 2010, who do I contact?**

You can contact the RNA competition entries coordinator Andrew Tudor directly on Email: [atudor@rnashowgrounds.com.au](mailto:atudor@rnashowgrounds.com.au) Telephone: 07 3253 3921.

# A MEATY REWARD

*Ekka 2009 was the year of record breaking purchase prices for beef cattle. So why are businesses prepared to pay so much for champion cattle? We talk to the people who happily handed over the cash, about their motivation to do so.*

On that sunny Wednesday, 5th August, Darren and Rebecca Ebert, from The Butcher Shoppe in Brisbane's northern suburb of Aspley, watched on eagerly as school groups paraded their led steers around the Main Arena.

Cheers could be heard when 'Hairy', a 462kg Limousin/Shorthorn cross, loved and raised for 12 months by students at St Johns College in Dubbo, NSW, was named Grand Champion Led Steer of Show.

After much celebration and hugs for Hairy the students bid him farewell and went on with their day.

Just a few hours later, Hairy was ready for auction (hot dressed on the hook carcass weight), and Darren and Rebecca were licking their lips in anticipation. Auctioneer Neil Goetsch started the bidding process and not long after, people began to realise that this was no ordinary auction and no ordinary steer.

Bids grew, the tension grew and the excitement grew until the final hammer. "SOLD for \$72.10/kg," said Neil. "Twenty thousand, 252 dollars and 60 cents to the man in the striped shirt.

"This price was a sure record for the Ekka, a record for Australia and could quite possibly be an international world record as well," said RNA Vice-President Allan Warby. "Wow, that's a spectacular price."

Meat from the Steer went to Darren's customers on the northside and was supplied to the Cattle City Motel,



Photo courtesy of Queensland Country Life

*Darren and Rebecca Ebert (left) from The Butcher Shoppe in Aspley with 'Hairy', a Limousin/Shorthorn cross raised for 12-months by students at St Johns College in Dubbo.*

Rockhampton and the Peninsula Steakhouse, Redcliffe. Both venues advertised a special dinner event and packed their restaurants with customers eager to get a taste of the champion who fetched the highest price ever.

"We did it for the publicity," said Darren and Rebecca Ebert. "We wanted our customers to know that we buy the best."

When asked if he and his family sat down to a good steak? "We sure did and Hairy was worth every dollar."

Another highlight of the auction included the sale of the 2009 RNA Youngcare

Charity Steer. The 542kg Santa Gertrudis Steer was bought for \$7000 by The Breakfast Creek Hotel, Brisbane.

Hotel Manager Sam Gullo said the Breakfast Creek Hotel had set a tradition of purchasing an Ekka steer and hosting a special invitation only event to thank their regular customers, suppliers and people involved with the hotel.

"This year was particularly rewarding though, because we ended up purchasing the Youngcare Steer, with proceeds going towards this very important charity, which means a lot to all our staff," he said.

# LET'S TALK ABOUT... THE WEATHER

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*Conversations about the weather may seem trivial, but when you are a primary producer, the weather report is as important as the traffic report is to the urban dweller.*

So what is the expected seasonal outlook for Queensland over the coming months? Showbiz checked in with the Bureau of Meteorology to find out.

The 2009/2010 season is expected to be largely influenced by a comparatively weak El Niño event. Therefore rainfall and flooding should not be as extensive as the past two seasons and a tropical cyclone impact on the east coast is a little less likely than in neutral or La Niña years. An expected late start to the monsoon and an outlook favouring above average temperatures suggests a relatively long fire season.

The current El Niño event is unusual in-so-far as waters to the northeast of Australia remain somewhat warmer than average. These unusual ocean conditions have had a notable impact on the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) which has remained close to zero. Moreover, the coupling between the ocean and atmosphere which amplifies and maintains El Niño events has so far failed to eventuate.

Nevertheless, most global climate models predict a continuation of the El Niño through the summer months. El Niño events are usually associated with below normal rainfall over much of Queensland and a below average number of tropical cyclones in the Coral Sea. Cyclones are also more likely from late December than earlier in the season.

Thunderstorms are most likely to occur from now until April with a peak in Southeast Queensland between November and January. If the environmental conditions are supportive, most storms have the potential to be severe with damaging wind and hail.



# MANGO MAGIC



*Tis' the season... for one of the most prized fruit that is. Plump, rich, decadent, Summer signals the delivery of mangoes and plenty of menu options. Use them in salads, smoothies or just indulge over the kitchen sink.*

## How do you choose a mango?

The best way to buy a mango is to simply use your nose. A ripe fresh mango should have a fragrant tropical fruity aroma, a full colour (this is known as the blush) and will give slightly to the touch. Don't squeeze too hard as this will bruise the fruit.

Stay away from very soft or bruised fruit. An unripe mango has no scent and can have an unpleasant chemical taste if eaten raw.

Never buy completely green mangoes, as they may never ripen.



## Great Summertime Recipe

# MANGO AND SESAME COLESLAW

### Ingredients

2 tbs sesame seeds  
4 mangoes  
2 large carrots, peeled, grated  
6 green onions, thinly sliced  
1/4 small green cabbage, finely shredded

### Orange Tahini Dressing

1/2 cup olive oil  
1/4 cup fresh orange juice  
2 teaspoons caster sugar  
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard  
1 tablespoon tahini

1. Cook sesame seeds in a frying pan over high heat, stirring, for 4 minutes or until golden. Cool.
2. To make the dressing, combine all ingredients, and salt and pepper in a screw-top jar. Shake well.
3. Prepare mangoes by slicing off each cheek and cutting a lattice pattern in the flesh of each cheek, without cutting through the skin. Turn cheeks inside out, remove mango cubes and place in a bowl.
4. Add carrots, onions, cabbage, sesame seeds and dressing to mangoes. Toss gently. Serve.

Makes: 8 serves  
Prep time: 10 – 15 minutes  
Cooking time: 4 minutes

Buying tips and recipe provided by Australian Mangoes.

See more at [www.mangoes.net.au](http://www.mangoes.net.au)

# AGRICULTURE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

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## HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR YOUR OWN MANGO TREE

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*Mangoes make handsome shade trees which, if you live in the right climate, are one of the easiest fruit trees to grow.*

Few productive plants are more prestigious and rewarding than a home-grown mango tree. *Mangifera indica* is an attractive evergreen with a broad, dense crown that casts deep shade. It produces tiny, fragrant flowers from winter to spring, which readily self-pollinate. As summer arrives, decorative pink-tinged new foliage appears that gradually changes to a rich green colour.

### Getting started

Mangoes grow best in a slightly acidic, sandy loam, in full, all-day sun. Adapted to wet summers and dry winters and springs, mangoes grow particularly well along the tropical north and subtropical east coasts of Australia.

They grow about half-a-metre a year, eventually reaching up to 35m high and 15m across. Trees are generally sold as grafted saplings, although some cultivars, such as Nam Doc Mai and Kensington Pride, can be grown from seed sown after removing the flesh.

### How to plant

Thoroughly dig the soil, incorporating plenty of compost or well-rotted cow

manure, then plant. Form a dish drain, about 1.5m in diameter, by creating a low, doughnut-shaped mound around the sapling. Mulch with hay, sugar cane, lucerne or compost to a depth of 10cm, keeping it away from the base of the trunk. Water well.

Feed saplings with organic fertiliser, once in spring and again in summer, until they reach flowering size. Then feed in summer after fruit starts to form, to encourage fruit quality and size rather than leafy growth. Watering and foliar feeding with seaweed tonic improves fruit quality and flavour and helps combat mineral deficiencies.

Train saplings to produce a single trunk about 1–2m high, then remove the tip of the leader. This encourages multiple side shoots and fruiting nearer ground level. No other pruning is necessary other than to improve the shape or remove damaged stems.

*Information courtesy Gardening Australia, ABC TV [abc.net.au/gardening](http://abc.net.au/gardening)*



## IN THE NEWS

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*Susan Lorenti of Clayfield Markets Fresh has been crowned the first ever “Mango Queen” after making the winning bid of \$45,000 for the 2009 season’s symbolic first tray of mangoes at the Brisbane Markets “Mango Memories” auction for charity last month.*

Marking the 12th year of the event, proceeds from the auction and other activities totalled \$70,000, and will be shared between Life Education Queensland, the largest non-government provider of drug and health education in Australia, and Redkite, an organisation that provides emotional and financial support to children affected by cancer and their families.

Since the inaugural event in 1998, the Brisbane Market Mango Auction has raised more than half a million dollars for worthy charities.

# BLOOMING CAREERS

*Enrolments in agricultural and horticultural degrees around the world are declining. In Australia there was an estimated need for 2000 agricultural graduates in 2008; met by a supply of just over 600 graduates. Enrolments in Agribusiness at the University of Queensland (UQ) have fallen by about 50% over five years and enrolments in horticulture have fallen to single figures.*



**So how can we spark awareness and interest in horticulture as a valued profession? Renowned horticulture expert Colin Campbell had this to say...**

In these days when “global warming” and “climate change” seem to be a couple of the major topics of conversation, I think the word horticulture should be included in that conversation.

Some years ago I jokingly suggested to the then Premier of Queensland that the Government should impose an “Oxygen Tax” on non gardeners with the money raised being put towards providing more water for gardeners. Obviously he never took up the proposal, but I do passionately believe that our horticulturists are either providing us with some of the best quality food on the planet or they are contributing to a significant reduction in carbon dioxide

by planting trees, shrubs and lawns.

During my overseas travels it has often been said to me that the standard of horticultural practice in Australia is somewhat behind that of countries such as New Zealand, Britain and The United States of America. I don't think that it would be fair to apply that supposition to all streams of horticulture, but we should discuss it openly in case there could be modicum of truth in it.

I do have a personal theory that the horticultural industry has been in existence for hundreds of years in Britain and the USA, whereas in New Zealand and Australia we have only 150 years or so to look at. The early settlers that went to New Zealand were mostly from a wealthier background and had been raised in situations where gardens and intensive horticulture were the norm. On top of that, they landed in a country where the soil and climate were

almost identical to the one they left. This gave them a decided edge over their Australian counterparts.

Australia's early settlers were either prisoners, or guards, with a few officers and bureaucrats thrown in, but they had to cope with an inhospitable climate and soils the likes of which they had never seen before.

Regardless of whether you believe that our horticultural expertise is lacking, there is no doubt that we can always find room for improvement and in a world where food and urban green spaces are both going to be in short supply, it will be critical in the years to come. As a result of these increasing demands the role of horticultural education will become critical.

I was fortunate enough to grow up in a gardening family and to attend a primary school where gardening was a core subject; and I am firmly of the opinion that it should be an essential part of the school system in Queensland today.

Whilst the TAFE system has an important role in training the hands on managers, supervisors and operators in horticulture, I'm afraid that only on rare occasions do any of their graduates become the scientists that are needed to lead the various sectors of the industry into the next few decades.

It is of concern to me that Gatton College is having trouble attracting suitable numbers of students to fill the various University courses in horticulture that are on offer. This is particularly so

*University of Queensland students on their way to a career in horticulture.*





in relation to ornamental horticulture. Some of the reasons that have been put to me are that the HECS fees are so high and the perceived salary for the jobs that graduates can get is so low it is hard to justify the expense of study.

The challenge for the industry is to firstly convince the Government that all of the elements covered in horticulture are as important as each other and their role

in the future is going to increase rather than decrease.

Support must be forthcoming to ensure that a higher than average standard of education at all levels is provided. The educational instrumentalities must also ensure that they engage the services of lecturers with the appropriate skills and qualifications to deliver the very best training possible. If that is achieved

then the industry itself must ensure that graduates receive a fair and equitable remuneration for their qualifications and the work they are doing.

*Tune into Col Campbell's 'Talking Gardening' radio program weekends from 7am to 10am on 4BC 1116 AM or call 13 13 32 to discuss this topic on air with Col.*

*If you're interested in pursuing a career in horticulture, the University of Queensland offers a range of undergraduate and post-graduate degree options to set you on the right path.*

## **UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

### **Associate Degree in Applied Science (Plant Studies)**

#### **2 years full time**

Applied Science is the science of applying knowledge from natural scientific fields to practical problems. This degree will provide you with a broad understanding of a variety of scientific principles and the skill to apply your knowledge to solve problems, a vital skill sought by employers and therefore a particular advantage when entering the workforce.

### **Bachelor of Applied Science (Plants)**

#### **3 years full time**

The Plants major incorporates the study of both Agronomy and Horticulture. Agronomy deals with the science and technologies involved in the cultivation of plants for sustainable agricultural systems, crop production and pastures. Horticulture covers fruit, vegetable, nursery and floricultural crops. Lifestyle horticulture encompasses the use of plants to enhance our lives and covers plants in urban landscapes, trees (arboriculture), turf and resort facilities and various recreational and therapeutic benefits.

### **Bachelor of Applied Science (Animal and Plant Biosecurity)**

#### **3 years full time**

Safeguarding Australia's animal and plant resources through adequate security and quarantine is the basis for the Animal and Plant Biosecurity Major. Students interested in working within biosecurity and quarantine roles such as the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) or Customs should consider this degree.

**\*\*\*You can also do the two above programs as a dual degree with the Bachelor of Agribusiness, which is a fantastic hands-on business program.**

## **Bachelor of Agricultural Science**

### **4 years full time**

This degree is the most comprehensive of UQ's range of agricultural programs, providing students with more opportunity to develop general or specialised expertise. It provides students with a sound knowledge of scientific, technological, management, economic, environmental and social principles associated with agriculture and horticulture.

## **POST GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Considering a change in career direction, or wanting to add to the skills you already have? Look no further than these training programs in plant protection and agriculture.

### **Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma & Masters in Plant Protection**

The plant protection program develops core disciplinary knowledge and skills in plant protection, emphasising tropical and subtropical aspects of the field. Compulsory courses cover plant pathology, entomology, weed science and the integration of these disciplines. Students may focus their studies in one of the following areas: tropical pest management; agricultural entomology; plant pathology; or weed sciences.

### **Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma & Masters in Agricultural Studies**

The agricultural studies program provides knowledge and professional expertise in agriculture and related disciplines, including scientific and management principles and their integration. This broadly based, interdisciplinary program emphasises problem-solving skills, and advances students' professional training and development. Students gain a conceptual basis and understanding of research techniques and data interpretation; and depth and breadth of understanding in a chosen field of study.

*For more information contact Erin Pearl: e.pearl@uq.edu.au or (07) 5460 1229.*

# AT THE RNA SHOWGROUNDS

## WHAT'S COMING UP...

### NOVEMBER 2009

SALES... fabulous fashion and accessories just in time for Christmas

**RM Williams (up to 70% off)**  
Thursday 12th to Sunday 22nd

**SASS and BIDE**  
Wednesday 25th to Monday 30th

**SPENCER and RUTHERFORD**  
Friday 27th to Sunday 29th

### JANUARY 2010

Just when you thought things got a little too quiet in January, along comes another great music event at the RNA Showgrounds.

**LANEWAY FESTIVAL**  
Friday 29th January

### FEBRUARY 2010

**IDEAL BRIDAL Bridal Show**  
Friday 19th to Sunday 21st

**ARMS FAIR**  
Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st

**SOUNDWAVE MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
Saturday 20th

**HOME SHOW**  
Saturday 27th to Sunday 7th March

## WHAT'S BEEN ON LATELY...



*Milking cows at the Rural Discovery Day 2009*

### RURAL DISCOVERY DAY 2009

With the Queensland Government's goal to grow Queensland's Primary Industries to \$34 billion by 2020 (current value \$13 billion), Rural Discovery Day 2009 aimed to plant the 'seed of interest' in the minds of South East Queensland primary school students.

More than 750 students descended on the John Reid Pavilion at the RNA Showgrounds on Thursday 15 October, to experience and explore Queensland's primary industries sector.

The students had the fun task of looking, seeing, touching and feeling what agriculture is all about, so as to grow their knowledge of where food and fibres come from and hopefully spark interest in an agricultural career.

Some 24 rural industry organisations and producers took part, providing hands-on interactive sessions for the students to enjoy.

### STOCK UP FOR HOPE CHARITY DROVE LAUNCH

The nation's most ambitious charity cattle drive *Stock Up for Hope* was launched on Wednesday 2 September at the RNA Showgrounds, to raise

funds for school chaplaincy in regional Queensland.

Businessmen, school students and the Queensland Minister for Education Geoff Wilson took part in a 'mini' cattle drive showcase, prior to the *real* Drove which left Mitchell on 6 September.



*The big drove in action.*

Forty city slickers, school chaplains and kids drove 400 head of cattle over five weeks, arriving safe and sound in Roma on 13 October.

The RNA was a proud sponsor of the Drove and cattle auction which raised more than \$350,000 for school chaplains, who provide a listening ear and caring presence for young people in 640 State schools across Queensland.

The next Drove is planned for 2011. Visit [www.stockupforhope.org.au](http://www.stockupforhope.org.au) for details.



# SHOWBIZ MOVIE GIVEAWAY

Remind your family of the true meaning of Christmas at the movies this November when Walt Disney Pictures and visionary director Robert Zemeckis bring the beloved Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* to life on the big screen.

Starring Jim Carrey in the multiple roles of Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future, Disney's *A Christmas Carol* will take audiences on a fun-filled magical thrill ride!

Using groundbreaking 3D performance capture, the world of Dickensian London will be brought to life in an exquisite super-sensory retelling where audiences will be transported on a fantastical journey of realisation, discovery and destiny, highlighting the value and strength of family.

Disney's *A Christmas Carol*, rated PG, releases November 5 in 2D and 3D in selected cinemas and **Showbiz has three family (admit 4) passes to giveaway.**

For your chance to win, email your name, address and phone number to [giveaways@rnashowgrounds.com.au](mailto:giveaways@rnashowgrounds.com.au). Be sure to include the phrase 'A Christmas Carol' as the subject of the email.

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- Free use of the Cloakroom during Ekka
- Reduced Royal Queensland Show competition fees for most sections
- Discounted venue hire at the RNA Showgrounds for functions outside of Ekka
- Free parking at the RNA Showgrounds for events outside of Ekka
- Use of Members' Facilities at interstate Royal Shows
- Regular Showbiz newsletter
- Junior Membership starting from \$45.00

Apply online at [www.rna.org.au](http://www.rna.org.au) or phone the RNA Membership Department on 07 3852 1831

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