

The official magazine of the RNA

# SHOWBIZ

SPRING 2023

FESTIVAL  
SEASON  
STARTS



EKKA  
2023  
WRAP UP

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# W E L C O M E

FROM RNA PRESIDENT DAVID THOMAS



There was such a wonderful feeling around the Show this year, so many families creating those magical childhood memories that last a lifetime.

I would like to start by thanking our members and the people of Queensland for their incredible support of the 2023 Royal Queensland Show (Ekka)

The 144th Ekka was the most attended Show since 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic. The attendance figure of 400,000 was a big increase on last year when we welcomed 345,000 visitors.

With the events sector thriving, 2023 has been one of the most successful the RNA has had in its 147-year history. After the challenges of the past few years, it was fantastic to see the community coming back to Ekka.

With the cost of living impacting heavily on the family budget, we wanted to ensure this year's Ekka offered substantial savings and value. Our discounted tickets offered significant ticket price savings, with our Super Saver Days and for the first time, daily two-for-one rides.

This year we were delighted to once again reward and recognise our exhibitors across all 55 competition sections.

We received more than 21,000 competition entries which is also back to pre-pandemic levels. Our competitors come from all corners

of our great state to bring the country to the city in an annual celebration of agriculture.

Since the first show in 1876, the Ekka has celebrated and championed Queensland agriculture and the vital role it plays in our everyday lives. There was such a wonderful feeling around the Show this year, so many families creating those magical childhood memories that last a lifetime.

We are very grateful for the support that we receive from our sponsors. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our RNA members, exhibitors, competitors, judges and stewards, volunteers, and visitors for making the show so successful. Thank you also to my fellow RNA Councillors and the RNA staff for their dedication and commitment.

We look forward to seeing you again at the 2024 Ekka.

David Thomas  
RNA PRESIDENT

# FESTIVAL SEASON STARTS



In a huge end to 2023 Brisbane Showgrounds will host about 40 events in the last quarter of the year and the precinct will once again become the hub of the Sunshine State's summer music festivals.

The first music festival of the season was Listen Out in September which saw more than 35,000 fans pass through the gates.

The national dance music festival brought an energetic hip-hop/electronic line-up from across the globe including Skrillex, Lil Uzi Vert, Arrdee, Ice Spice, Coi Leray, Spinall, Kobie Dee and more.

It was the sixth year since 2014 the Brisbane Showgrounds had hosted the popular Australian music festival.

Next on the calendar for the home of Queensland's music festivals is RnB Fridayz Live on Friday 17 November.

The festival will feature some of the world's biggest names in RnB and hip-hop including headliner Jason Derulo plus Kelly Rowland,

Flo Rida, Boys II Men and more.

Other music festivals and concerts to be held at the Brisbane Showgrounds this spring/summer include the following

## **POST MALONE** **23 NOVEMBER**

Global superstar Post Malone will return to Australia this November on his 'If Y'all Weren't Here, I'd Be Crying' World Tour. The 8x diamond-certified GRAMMY® Award-nominated phenomenon will bring thousands of fans to his one off Brisbane Showgrounds performance.

## **GOOD THINGS** **3 DECEMBER**

Australia's largest and favourite travelling music festival, Good Things, returns this December with a bumper line-up set to descend on the Brisbane Showgrounds. Leading the charge are American rock idols Fall Out Boy, Florida heavies Limp Bizkit, and none other than Devo, making a stop

on their Farewell Tour Celebrating 50 Years.

## **WILDLANDS NYE** **31 DECEMBER**

The Showgrounds will bring in the new year with the sounds of the best in dance, electronic & hip-hop from around the globe. Wildlands 2023 boasts an impressive line-up including Rufus Du Sol, Central Cee, Peggy Gou and more.

## **ST JEROME'S LANEWAY** **3 FEBRUARY**

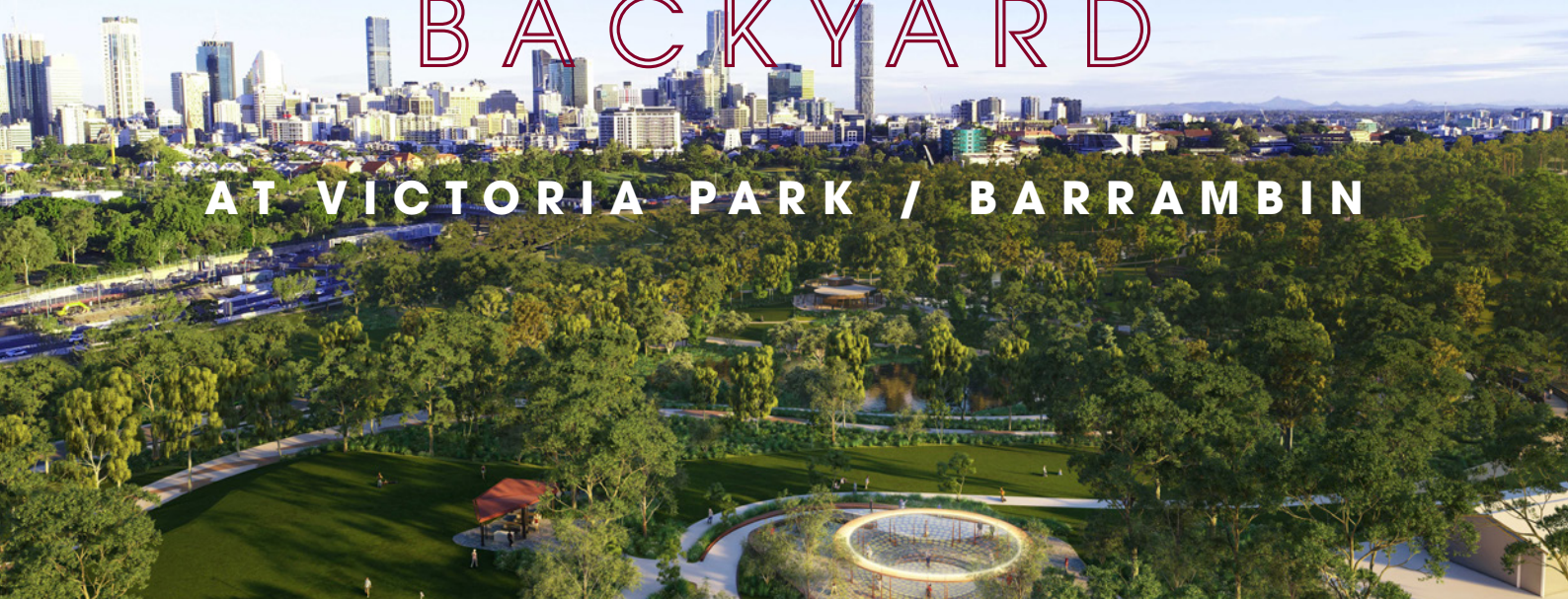
St Jerome's Laneway Festival will be bringing some of the hottest acts with UK rapper Stormzy one of the main performers, along with Steve Lacy and Dominic Fike.

*For more information on each of these music festivals, simply click here to visit our "What's On" webpage.*

Want to win free tickets? Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages to find out how.

# DISCOVER BRISBANE'S BACKYARD

## AT VICTORIA PARK / BARRAMBIN



Discover Brisbane's backyard at Victoria Park / Barrambin on your next visit to the Royal National Agriculture (RNA) Showgrounds. Brisbane City Council is transforming Victoria Park into a natural retreat and urban park for adventure, discovery and reconnection. With 64 hectares of open greenspace, rolling hills and iconic city views, the park is the largest inner-city parkland in Brisbane, spanning across the suburbs of Herston, Kelvin Grove and Spring Hill and located right next door to the Brisbane Showgrounds.

The Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan was released in June 2023, showcasing

the park's long-term roadmap formed by the community's ideas and feedback. The delivery of projects in the Master Plan will restore the park's natural landscape, revitalise wetlands and waterholes, increase tree canopy cover from 10% to 60% and create unique spaces for the community to explore and enjoy.

Council has progressed early works in the park including the installation of new park furniture, barbeques and shelters, and has started construction on an urban pump track and the Spring Hill Common.

The park is growing as a vibrant inner-city destination and unique outdoor venue for

community events and festivals, including Brisbane Festival and Green Heart Fair. The park also hosts Park Vibes with live music and food trucks, and every school holidays the kids can enjoy Park Play with free activities and experiences. There is also free yoga in the park and other Active and Healthy activities.

The park is located across Bowen Bridge Road from the Brisbane Showgrounds, with entrances off Gregory Terrace, Gilchrist Ave and Herston Road. Visit [brisbane.qld.gov.au/victoriapark](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au/victoriapark) to explore the Master Plan and learn more about events and upcoming projects in the park.



Pic courtesy of the Courier-Mail

## SPRING FINISH FOR SOLD OUT BRIDGE TO BRISBANE

Competitors who took part in Queensland's largest community fun run, The Sunday Mail Transurban Bridge to Brisbane, crossed the finish line at the Brisbane Showgrounds on the event's new springtime date of 15 October.

Traditionally held in August, the sold out Bridge to Brisbane event saw more than 30,000 people participate in either the 4.5km and 10km courses which both wound up on Gregory Terrace at the Showgrounds.

Brisbane Showgrounds General Manager of Venue Sales and Marketing Jago Coyle said they were thrilled to once again be part of the high-profile fun run.

"We're proud to have a long association with Bridge to Brisbane and it was wonderful to see tens of thousands of people cross the finish line here at the Showgrounds," Mr Coyle said.



# THANK YOU SPONSORS!

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW  
AUGUST 12-20

Queensland's biggest and most loved event, the 2023 Ekka presented by RACQ, was an incredible success attracting 400,000 guests.

This achievement would not have been possible without the support and dedication of all our 2023 sponsors.

### PRESENTING PARTNER



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### CHAMPION PARTNERS



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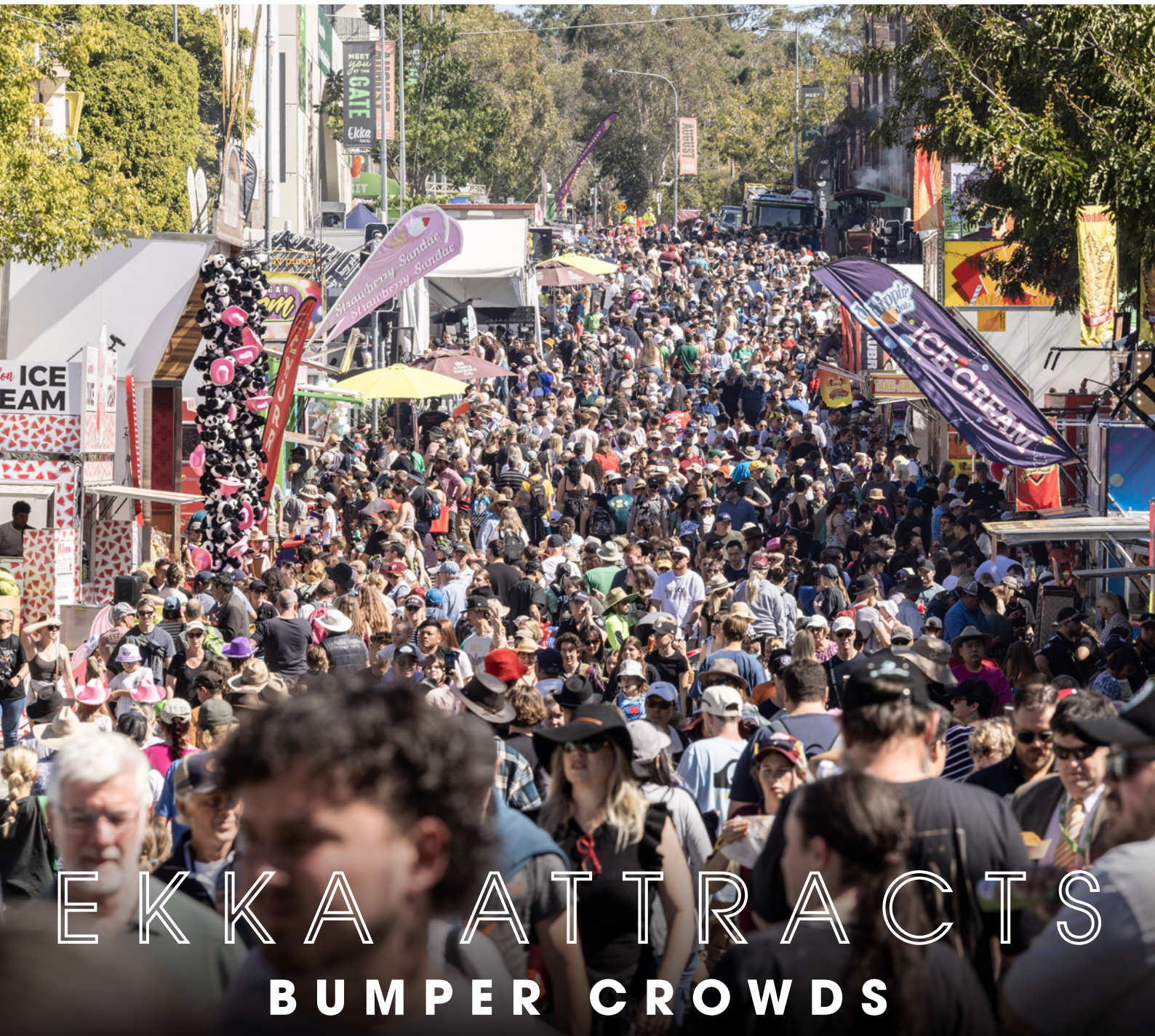
If you, or someone you know, would like to be involved as a sponsor for Ekka in 2024 please contact our team



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About 400,000 people enjoyed Ekka's most successful show in years, with stunning weather, beautiful animals, first class entertainment and a popular daily ride special.

The 144th Royal Queensland Show presented by RACQ was the most attended since 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said this year's attendance figures surpassed last year's comeback Ekka of 345,000 and that the Show was back to pre-pandemic crowds.

"Our goal was to welcome 400,000 in total by the end of show so it was a terrific result.

"The discounted ticket deals on the four Super Saver Days—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday proved popular—resulting in one of the biggest Mondays in recent history.

"Plus our first ever daily two for one ride special was a huge hit with families taking advantage of it every morning of Show," he said.

Mr Christou said visitors enjoyed all the traditional show favourites such as the animals, championship competitions, live entertainment, heart-stopping rides and fun showbags.

"Competition entries this year were back at pre-pandemic levels – 21,000 across 55 sections," he said.

It was wonderful to see that competitive spirit alive and well as they aspired for a coveted blue ribbon."

"The public also delighted in the 10,000 animals on display at the Show, and in turn learned about agriculture and Queensland's farming communities."

People's Day was hugely successful with more than 67,000 people attending the Show, Ekka Monday a huge 48,000 plus attending, and it was a massive last Saturday with more than 50,000 through the gates.

The RNA thanks Queenslanders for their amazing support of the Show and looks forward to the 145th Ekka from August 10-18.

# EKKA LEGEND

## A CREATIVE CONTRIBUTOR



RNA President David Thomas with Sylvia



After nearly three decades of association with the Creative Arts and Craft Competition Sylvia Hopkins was awarded the RNA's highest honour – the Ekka Legend title.

For 27 years, Sylvia has enjoyed volunteering, competing, or judging at the Royal Queensland Show presented by RACQ in the Cookery and Creative Arts and Crafts sections.

Sylvia's incredible legacy commenced when she began volunteering with the Queensland Country Women's Association in their popular Ekka café.

This experience inspired her to enter the RNA's Cookery and Fine Arts Competitions where she excelled, winning many awards, particularly for her needlework, crochet and knitting.

Sylvia's commitment and official duties grew when she became a Steward and Judge.

RNA President David Thomas said the Ekka Legend award was bestowed on those who had made a remarkable contribution to the Show.

"Sylvia has made a remarkable contribution to the Cookery and Creative Arts and Crafts sections here at the Ekka and at other shows across Queensland," Mr Thomas said.

"Sylvia's love of the arts has extended to teaching and mentoring locally and in country areas for many years. Her dedication has also led to her training and assisting new volunteers, stewards, and judges.

"She is a much loved and highly regarded member of the Fine Arts team.

"We honour and thank Sylvia Hopkins for her incredible contribution to the Royal Queensland Show over many years."

The Ekka Legend award was introduced in 2004 and just 18 people have been bestowed the RNA's most prestigious honour.



# COMPETITIVE

## SPIRIT RETURNS

The Ekka recognises and rewards our exhibitors, who year in year out, produce the best of the best. In 2023 thousands of people competed in 55 sections across 11,000 classes – from Stud Beef to Bantams and Lemon Butter to Bush Poetry.

This year our competitions attracted huge entry numbers- more than 21,000 competition entries which is back to pre-pandemic levels.

From champion woodchoppers to pint-sized horse competitors and elderly bakers, the Ekka has a competition for everyone and it was heart-warming to see the public continue to cherish this

beloved tradition.

The Ekka doesn't just bring the traditions of show together, it also continues to evolve, grow and nurture new audiences.

Despite the digital age, where children spend hours online, Ekka's next generation is thriving.

We have young people pursuing some of the Show's oldest competitions, from cookery to cake decorating, quilt making, blacksmithing, and woodchopping.

Our competitions form the foundation of the Show and our exhibitors work tirelessly to produce the best of the best.





Matt Damon enjoys Sideshow Alley with family

# EKKA ENTERTAINMENT CELEBS

This year's Ekka attracted people from all over Australia, plus a host of celebrities including Hollywood superstar Matt Damon and his family.

In the ultimate endorsement, Matt Damon was recorded by the Ekka Social Media team saying a visit to the Show had become a family tradition! This year was the second year in a row the famous actor and his family had enjoyed Ekka. Damon's interview video went viral on Ekka social media platforms reaching 5,194,545

On that same day, Ekka Tuesday, the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese also popped into the Show and enjoyed a strawberry sundae.

Kids at Ekka were treated to a surprise visit from the delightful Australian children's entertainer Emma Watkins, aka Emma Memma. The former Wiggle was a huge hit with Show crowds as she stopped to meet every child that recognised her.

Sporting stars flocked to the Show too this

year. On opening day Australian champion sprinter and the new host of Channel 7's top rating breakfast show Sunrise, Matt Shirvington, made the most of his first ever visit to Ekka – wrangling horses with Ekka cowboy Dave Manchon and armwrestling against the nation's best. Rugby league legends and Channel 7 sports presenters Shane Webcke and Trevor Gillmeister mingled with Show goers, milked a cow, sheared a sheep and braved the brand new extreme ride The Joker.



Anthony Albanese enjoys an Ekka Strawberry Sundae



Matt Shirvington poses with Animal Nursery puppy



Shane Webcke takes part in the Horsing Around show



# EKKANITES

## EXCITES



The Main Arena came alive each night of Show with the spectacular night show EkkaNITES presented by Brisbane City Council. More than 20,000 people packed in to see the action-packed program.

This year's theme was celebrating the art of imagination. The imagination of those back in 1876 which created the very first Ekka – the women and men who created those iconic competitions that have stood the test of time and that bring the country and the city together. EkkaNITES this year celebrated night show traditions which

feature country spirit and city heart.

EkkaNITES included a stunning fireworks display lighting up the night sky and a new equine experience featuring cowboys, cowgirls, two stepping, galloping horses, bison, long horn bulls and all things “Yellowstone”. Everyone's favourite equine artist Dave Manchon was back with his brand new stampede show - Battle in the Saddle – which featured 20 bison storming the Main Arena.

For the first time in Australia EkkaNITES

showcased three Wheels of Steel.

Considered one of the most dangerous stunts to perform, circus performers were balanced atop the three storey tall rotating steel pendulums as they moved around the Main Arena. Another crowd favourite was the nailbiting freestyle motocross display with motorcycles launching an incredible 15 metres into the air.

Our Entertainment Team has now turned their attention to the 2024 Ekka and we can't wait to see what they have in store!



Young competitor enjoys some downtime with his cattle

# EKKA 2023

## HIGHLIGHTS



Riders in the Grand Parade



American contestant Martha King competes in the Woodchop Competition



Competitor displays his flower beard during the Flower Beard competition



Children learn about agriculture in the Little Backyard Farmers activation

# DON'T MISS OUT

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ROYAL  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION CENTRE  
BRISBANE AUSTRALIA



Horse exhibitor prepares early in the morning of show



The Joker ride in full flight



Child models in the Natural Fibres Fashion Parade



Junior parader displaying his Brahman in the Beef Cattle Competition



Friends enjoying their showbags in Sideshow Alley



Dave Manchon herding Bison during EkkaNITES



Spectators enjoy the Grand Parade

# 2023

## GRAND CHAMPIONS

### AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND STUDENT FERMENTED BEVERAGES

CHAMPION FERMENTED BEVERAGE Tullawong State High School - Team #1 Cabernet

### ALPACA FLEECES

CHAMPION HUACAYA FLEECE Broadwater Alpacas - Broadwater Helga

CHAMPION SURI FLEECE Darryl & Jessie Raines - GOLDEN CHARM NELLIE

### APICULTURE

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR Mark Ansell

### AUSTRALIAN YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE

YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE FINALISTS Waltzing Wallys - Lawrence Sehmish-Lahey, Sarah Rose, Mikyla Hogno and Joshua White

### BUSH POETRY

OVERALL CHAMPION Justin Geange

### CAKE DECORATING

GRAND CHAMPION Pauline Herrmann - TRADITIONAL WEDDING

### CANINE

CHAMPION OF SHOW (Show 1) CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL, SUP.CH. MATMOR POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE(AI)

CHAMPION OF SHOW (Show 2) ALASKAN MALAMUTE, SUP.CH. WHITEWARRIOR NAKOMAS QUEST(AI)

### CATS

SUPREME ALL BREEDS CAT OF SHOW Fiona Cooper - Coolcoons Secret Business

### CREATIVE ART & CRAFT

GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBIT John Rossberg

### DAIRY CATTLE

SUPREME CHAMPION DAIRY COW Paulger Family - ADADALE SLEEPING JINGLES

### DAIRY GOATS

SUPREME CHAMPION DAIRY DOE OF SHOW Alexander Berry - Down Udder Caches Golden Girl

### EDUCATION ON SHOW

CHAMPION SCHOOL OF SHOW Bullyard State School

### FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR - OPEN M P Smailes

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR - INTERMEDIATE Carly Moore

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR - NOVICE Harry Sturgeon

### HORSE

CHAMPION GENTLEMAN RIDER Riley Kent

CHAMPION LADY RIDER Rebecca Crane

### LED STEER

GRAND CHAMPION LED STEER Ray Zahnw

GRAND CHAMPION LED STEER CARCASS McUtchen Family

### NATURAL FIBRES & WEARABLE ART

GRAND CHAMPION Tayla McFarlane

<b>Paddock to Palate</b>	
CLASS 37 OVERALL WINNER	Palgrove Pastoral Co
CLASS 38 OVERALL WINNER	Aurelian Pastoral Co
CLASS 40 OVERALL WINNER	G Morgan & Co
<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b>	
CHAMPION PORTRAIT OF SHOW	Catherine Clark Dowden - It was Worth It
<b>Photography</b>	
CHAMPION PRINT	Brennan Finighan - The Cycle of Seasons
CHAMPION DIGITAL IMAGE	Lenore Hansen - Rose Beauty
<b>Pisciculture</b>	
GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBIT OF SHOW	Peter Ford
<b>Poultry</b>	
SUPREME GRAND CHAMPION FOWL OF THE SHOW	Shaunn Jannusch
<b>Prime Beef</b>	
GRAND CHAMPION PEN	Stanhope Cattle Co
<b>Prime Lambs</b>	
OVERALL CHAMPION PEN OF THREE LAMBS	Bellevue Grazing Company Pty Ltd
<b>Quilts Across Queensland</b>	
BEST OF SHOW	Robyn Martin
<b>Raising Hy-Line Hens Competition</b>	
OVERALL CHAMPION	West Moreton Anglican College
<b>Sheep</b>	
SUPREME CHAMPION BREEDERS GROUP OF SHOW	Andrew & Amanda Vernon
<b>Sculpture</b>	
CHAMPION SCULPTURE	Troy Bennett - Aussie Pride
<b>Showjumping</b>	
CHAMPION RIDER - SHOWJUMPING	Stuart Jenkins
<b>Stud Beef</b>	
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS BULL	Scott and Phillipa Hann - Truro Whiteface - TRURO SHERLOCK S188 (P)
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS COW OR HEIFER	Kirriy Johnson-Iseppi - GK RED 624 DINA S2 (AI) (AMF) (MAF) (NHF) (OSF) GK S02
<b>Student Made Cheese</b>	
CHAMPION CHEESE OF SHOW	Pimpama State Secondary College - Jahrome Bradfield & Shavanna Walker
<b>Thoroughbreds &amp; Standardbreds</b>	
CHAMPION STANDARDBRED	Amanda Triandopoulos - Diamond Park Khaleesi
SUPREME CHAMPION THOROUGHBRED	Leanne Jones - O'Thunder
<b>Woodchop &amp; Sawing</b>	
CHAMPION AXEMAN OF THE SHOW	Brayden Meyer
<b>Wool</b>	
GRAND CHAMPION MERINO FLEECE OF SHOW	Mt Ascot
<b>Young Judges</b>	
MOST SUCCESSFUL COMPETITOR	Brooke Emery
<b>Youth in Agriculture</b>	
OVERALL WINNER YOUTH DISTRICT EXHIBITS	Girl Guides QLD

Fun and Friendship with  
Family and Friends



This year, the RNA's 'High Tea' Fundraiser was held on a Friday (11th Aug.). 400 ladies, from near and far, turned up to support an event which has now celebrated its seventh year. We are delighted to announce that this year's function raised just over \$39,000.00.

For those of you who are not aware of where our fundraising has been directed, here is the list of organisations/charities which have benefited since our 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'

This year Lyn French spoke on behalf of our chosen beneficiary - 'BushED'. Its 'Mothers in Arms' project is aimed at

supporting new mothers and their journey raising a child from birth to Pre-School.

*Link to BushED website*

In Lyn's own words:

*"Mothers In Arms is an initiative to connect new mums with experienced mums – to share life experiences, challenges and wins. It's a support program that helps mums understand themselves and accept that not everything will be or has to be perfect. Our buddy mums provide peer support and should our mums require additional professional support, our partners Virtual Psychologists will connect and provide our mums with next level support. This is a partnership of care.*

*We appreciate and thank you for the contribution that is being offering to BushED, We know it will make a huge impact to hundreds of rural and remote women's lives. Your donation will also help many in rural and remote QLD to receive resources to help prepare them for their teaching role whilst at the same time providing the new born with stimulating educational related materials that will help mum and child be up to speed on day 1 of schooling."*

Lyn French (CEO) speaking on behalf of 'BushED'





Selena Gomersall representing  
'Outback Futures'



Lyn's passionate presentation included her own personal experience in raising three children while living in remote outback Qld. Her heartfelt words resonated well with the rural guests. Many (now with grown up children), remember those early days of returning home with their newborn baby – often hundreds of kilometres from the nearest neighbouring property.

Also attending was Selena Gomersall from 'Outback Futures'. Our funds last year went towards implementing their 'Rumbles Quest' within the Mt Isa region.

*Link to 'Outback Futures' VIDEO*

Selena spoke about the positive outcomes that last year's fundraising efforts have helped produce. It was an informative

and uplifting presentation as everyone always greatly appreciates being brought up-to-date with what has happened to the previous year's funds.

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

*Link to Ekka TV interviews*

While the main aim of this event 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.

Our ever supportive "M.C." was 'Landline'

ABC Television commentator, Pip Courtney. Pip has covered (for more than 30 years) Australian-wide issues that affect the bush. In 2011, she was named as the world's best agricultural reporter and has subsequently been inducted into the Rural Press Club's Rural Journalism Hall of Fame.

Pip opened the event by introducing our Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeanette Young AC PSM. The Governor spoke knowledgeably of the difficulties experienced by those who live hundreds/sometimes thousands of kilometres from 'big city' amenities.

She also stressed how important it is that people who are living in remote regions know that others actually care about them.

Pip Courtney our "M.C." for seven consecutive years



# CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM with members of the fundraising committee Margi Adnam, Jane Thomas, Gina Fairfax and Alison Chandler.



The Governor's address was followed by a viewing of the traditional EKKA Fashion Parade. This year, for the first time, the event featured children's apparel – paraded by four delightful young models (aged between 5-7 years).

At the conclusion of the Fashion Parade everyone remained seated for the 'Live' Auction. We were delighted to again welcome professional cattle/sheep auctioneer Bernadette Binnie from Tamworth.

Four major items went under her hammer:

- \* **One week's accommodation in a 3 Bedroom Penthouse at 'Costa Nova'.** This Sunshine Beach venue features huge ocean, beach and coastline views and was donated by the Fairfax Family;
- \* **A three night stay at the Sunshine Coast.** This lovely beach house, donated

by Kate McIntyre, can accommodate up to 11 guests and is perfect for an idyllic beach-break with family or friends;

\* **Vintage Gatelink Padlock Bracelet.** This dramatic four rail bracelet is hung with a heart-shaped padlock and safety chain. Made in Rose Gold, 18cm, it was donated by Patti Sedgwick owner of Sedgwick Antique and Estate Jewellery.

\* **Voucher for a whole lamb** donated by Bernadette Binnie.

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. Amidst gentle background 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.

Bernadette Binnie, our 'Live' Auctioneer, in action



Raffle Table interest was high



Raffle Ticket buying was particularly popular this year - achieving a new milestone and raising over \$14,700.00. 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 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:

Alice Greenup

Andrea Crothers – Restaurant voucher

Ellen Gett – Basket of 'Ariat' products

Kate McIntyre

Kate Warby

'La Boite Theatre Company'

'McCulloch Agencies', Tamworth

'Mister Botanical Floral Design'

'Pamela's Pantry' – Baskets of goodies

Patti Sedgwick – 'Sedgwick Antique and Estate Jewellery'

Pia du Pradal

RNA

Rydgcs Fortitude Valley

Sarah McCamley

The Fairfax Family

Zoe Buchanan – 'Benita Red' Massage Sessions

The Hostesses, Committee and I are both proud and delighted that the RNA's 2022 'High Tea' Fundraiser raised over \$39,000.00.

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 2024.

*Best wishes until then,*

Jane Thomas



The fundraising committee and hostesses

# CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Keely Mancini from Brisbane, Jane McNamara from the Sunshine Coast and Michie McNamara from Brisbane



Rowena Hogan from Toowoomba, Diane Griffin from Yuleba and Pia Du Pradal



Georgina Ferris, Kathleen Armstrong and Edwina Adnam



Leigh Finne more from the Gold Coast, Maleea Forbes from Sydney and Camilla Hanbury from Brisbane



Joan Scott and Regina Cotter

# CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Amy Vincent from Brisbane, Phoebe Dunn from Brisbane and Mindy Vincent from Brisbane



Louise Shields, Garth Reid and Tricia Munn



Friendship



Kate Mod from Brisbane, Victoria Michels from Ascott, Renee Bidwell from Hendra, Meredith Burke from Brisbane, Regina Cotter from Hendra, Sarah Fraser from Hendra, Louise Hartley from Hendra



Singer Emma Irene and her accompaniment



Raffle/Sedgewick Antiques



The team of Moffat Beach Brewing Co celebrating winning Grand Champion Beer

## AWARDING AUSTRALIA'S FINEST FOOD AND BEST BEVERAGES

The search for Australia's best produce is about to begin, with entries for the Royal Queensland Awards (RQA) set to open this month.

The first of the RQA food and beverage competitions to open for entries in 2024 is the Beer Awards on 20 November.

The Royal Queensland Beer Awards presented by Railings Labels, Stickers and Packaging gives producers a platform to be recognised, to be judged against their

peers and get great consumer market exposure.

The competition was taken out by Queensland brewery Moffat Beach Brewing Co this year, with their Moff's Summer Ale beating a record 663 entries from 77 Australian breweries to take the title of Grand Champion Beer.

The other competitions that form the RQA are Cheese and Dairy; Ice Cream, Gelato and Sorbet; Branded Beef; Branded Lamb

and the Royal Queensland Wine Awards.

Since 2009, the RQA has nurtured innovation and excellence in the Queensland and Australian food and beverage sectors by providing a comprehensive awards program which helps producers benchmark and promote their products.

It also forms part of the RNA's commitment to reward and recognise the nation's best of the best.

*More info at [ww.rqa.com.au](http://ww.rqa.com.au).*

## BEER AWARDS GETTING BIGGER!

Supporting emerging talent in food and beverage production is a cornerstone of the RQAs, hence the introduction of a new trophy in the 2024 Royal Queensland Beer Awards (RQBA) for Best Contract Brewer.

The recipient of the "Best Contract Brewer" trophy is not only recognised for their mastery in the craft of brewing, but also for their collaborative spirit and commitment to nurturing partnerships within the brewing community.

A 'Contract Brewer' refers to a brewing entity that does not own or operate its own brewery facility, but instead engages the services of an established and independent

brewery to produce their beer recipes according to specified criteria.

This new award serves as a testament to the brewer's dedication to excellence, their capacity for innovation, and their contribution to the continued growth and diversification of the craft beer industry.

The RQBA is also calling for beer enthusiasts to volunteer to be an Associate Judge or steward in the 2024 competition.

Featuring a dedicated team of brewers, beer writers and industry figures, the RQBA offers a comprehensive snapshot of the quality of Australian brewing and a

trustworthy guide for consumers. Since its revival in 2019, the RQBA has been dedicated to contributing to the growth and development of the industry.

To ensure the RQBA competition runs smoothly and efficiently, we require dedicated and skilled Associate Judges and volunteer stewards.

Expressions of interest close Friday 9 December 2023. Successful applicants will be advised early February 2024. To apply go online here:

*Judges expression of interest [click here](#)*

*Stewarding expression of interest [click here](#)*

# ROYAL QUEENSLAND BEER AWARDS

ENTRIES OPEN 20 NOVEMBER 2023



NEW AWARDS FOR 2024  
BEST CONTRACT BREWER AND BEST ARTISTIC LABEL

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WE REQUIRE SKILLED ASSOCIATE JUDGES AND  
VOLUNTEER STEWARDS - [CLICK HERE TO APPLY NOW](#)

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