



Media Release

May 24, 2012

Bridging city/country divide through discovery

Almost 1,300 school students, 290 teachers and parents, 80 animals and 34 primary industries presenters will descend on the RNA Showgrounds today to learn about all things rural and bridge the city/country divide.

The internationally awarded program, RNA Rural Discovery Day, is welcomed by Brisbane teachers following a survey which found that 75 per cent of students thought cotton socks were an animal product and 45 per cent didn't know bananas, bread and cheese originated from farms.*

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said the day is designed to provide primary school students with an understanding of where their food, fibre and foliage come from.

"It's not unusual for students who have grown up in the city to have never been to a farm or seen a cow so Rural Discovery Day offers a great learning experience," he said.

"This year marks the 10th RNA Rural Discovery Day and provides students with a taste of what they can expect at the Ekka including milking a cow, sampling some of Queensland's best produce, watching sheep dogs in action and cuddling baby animals.

"There's just 76 sleeps until the Ekka opens its gates for 2012 and as Queensland's largest classroom the show is a great place for kids to come and experience all the educational and animal on offer."

The unique hands-on day has attracted 25 primary schools from across South-East Queensland including state, private, distance education and special education units.

Mr Christou said there are several new presenters this year including EcoMarines from Tangalooma, Chef Carmel and the Kids in the Kitchen program and the green thumbs from Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden.

"It's great to have some new industries on board this year and we also welcome back our students from Proston State School who have travelled 300 kilometres to teach their city cousins about the country," he said.

In 2011, Rural Discovery Day won an international award at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions contest which is designed to recognise and reward excellence for members throughout the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia.

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News editors please note:

- Media are welcome to attend Rural Discovery Day to film, take photos and interview teachers and students (with permission from carers)
- A selection of photos will be taken by the RNA and will be available to run alongside stories on request
- Rural Discovery Day runs from 9:45am to 2pm today
- It is located at Stockmen's Bar and Grill, RNA Showgrounds, Bowen Hills – enter via lower Gregory Terrace gates and park alongside the timber horse stalls

* Source – Survey was undertaken by the Australian Council of Educational Research, October 2011 – Report on surveys of students' and teachers' knowledge and understanding of Primary Industries.

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