

The official magazine of the RNA

SHOWBIZ

SPRING 2025

2032 GAMES
SPECIAL
REPORT

EKKA
WRAP UP



Artist impression of the
Brisbane Showground's 2032
Games Athlete Village



RNA

THE ROYAL NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL AND
HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND



BRISBANE
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AWARDS



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QUEENSLAND
AWARDS



SPECIAL UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2032 GAMES LEGACY WORKS UNDERWAY

Artist impression of the
redeveloped Main Arena



SPECIAL UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT WHAT AN EKKA!

Artist impression of the
redeveloped Main Arena and
Athlete Village post the 2032
Games



I'm pleased to inform our valued members that design works are underway for the Main Arena redevelopment plus scoping and engineering works are occurring on the John MacDonald and Ernest Baynes stands.

Restoration works on the stands are planned to commence next month, while construction on the new Machinery Hill will start immediately after next year's Ekka.

This follows the announcement, on grounds at the Ekka, by the Premier the Hon David Crisafulli MP that early works to begin transforming the Brisbane Showgrounds ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games would occur.

As outlined in a special 2032 Games edition of Showbiz in March, the Brisbane Showgrounds will become the Athletes Village for the 2032 Games marking an historic legacy setting chapter for our organisation.

As well as housing the Brisbane Athlete Village, an upgrade to the RNA's 20,000 seat Main Arena will facilitate the growth of the precinct's key entertainment and events capability.

As part of the Main Arena upgrade, the heritage-listed John

MacDonald and Ernest Baynes grandstands will be restored and upgraded to provide much improved accessibility.

The aging Machinery Hill grandstand (which is not heritage listed) will be replaced with a brand-new, modern grandstand, plus a new horse pavilion.

This project will help secure the future of the Ekka, delivering vital infrastructure that ensures Queensland's largest annual event remains at its original birthplace here at the Brisbane Showgrounds for another 150 years.

This transformation of the Showgrounds provides once-in-a-lifetime legacy benefit not just for Brisbane, but also rural and regional Queensland, generating major economic and social benefits for Queensland.

During construction, the Ekka will continue to operate in the lead-in to the 2032 Games, with project works planned to start following the 2026 Ekka.

Four years ago, the RNA announced that the Ekka will not operate in its usual capacity on grounds in 2032 and will explore ways some competitions can continue offsite during the Olympic year.

The RNA was thrilled to stage the most successful Ekka in almost 20 years, with more than 428,000 people joining us to celebrate.

Beautiful weather, exceptional animals and world-class entertainment combined to attract the largest crowd since 2008, easily surpassing our goal of 400,000 visitors.

For many, getting to the Show was easier than ever thanks to the reopening of the newly upgraded Exhibition Station for the first time since 2022.

Inside the gates, Ekka's rich traditions were proudly on display, with more than 21,000 competition entries received across 46 sections – some recording a 20–30 per cent increase in participation.

The excitement is already building for the 2026 Show, with the first competitions Paddock to Palate and Giant Pumpkins opening in late October.

Education remained a strong focus of 2025, with more than 3,400 students and teachers attending excursions at the Ekka – an increase of almost 20 per cent on last year.

We are proud to stage this iconic event on behalf of the community each year, and next year's Ekka will be even more special as we

celebrate its 150th anniversary – a truly remarkable milestone in our history.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our RNA members and the people of Queensland who support the Ekka by attending.

I would like to also thank our exhibitors, competitors, judges, stewards, sponsors, volunteers, Councillors and RNA staff for their hard work and dedication, which together bring the Show to life.

Looking ahead, our music festival season is just around the corner, kicking off with FridayZ Live on October 17 featuring music icon Mariah Carey, followed by Good Things on December 7, and then Wildlands and Ocean Alley in January.

With more than 60 events scheduled in the last quarter of the year, the RNA is set to finish 2025 on a high.

David Thomas

David Thomas
RNA PRESIDENT

POP ICON MARIAH CAREY TO PERFORM AT THE SHOWGROUNDS



The Brisbane Showgrounds is set to welcome one of music's biggest stars, with Mariah Carey taking to the stage for Fridayz Live, marking her first Australian performance in over a decade.

The multi Grammy Award winner will bring her iconic vocals and chart topping classics to the Showgrounds, kicking off what promises to be a landmark night for Brisbane's live music scene.

Fans can expect a mix of timeless Mariah hits, R&B favourites, and pop anthems, with the performance also celebrating 20 years since the release of her album *The Emancipation of Mimi*.

Tickets to Fridayz Live are already sold out, with Mariah's highly anticipated return offering fans a rare chance to see her live.

Fridayz Live marks the start of the Brisbane Showgrounds' music festival season, followed by Good Things on December 7 headlined by Tool, and Wildlands and Ocean Alley in January.



EXPLORE THE ULTIMATE OUTDOOR RV EXPERIENCE

The Let's Go Explore Caravan & RV Expo is rolling into the Brisbane Showgrounds from Thursday 30 October to Sunday 2 November.

Over four action-packed days, visitors can find inspiration for their next adventure and pick up a bargain just in time for the holiday season.

Discover around 100 leading RV brands, with models to suit every budget and lifestyle - from state-of-the-art off-road caravans and luxury motorhomes to rooftop tents. Plus, browse a huge range of gadgets and accessories designed to make every holiday more comfortable and enjoyable.

For more information click here.

NEW ON KING STREET



King Street just got even tastier with two new retailers recently opening.

Malaya Corner is dishing up the bold and aromatic flavours of Malaysia, from comforting classics like curry mee and Hainan chicken rice to crowd favourites such as nasi lemak and bak kut teh.

Also joining the street is Miniyo, a fun grab-and-go spot serving up Onigiri (savory Japanese rice balls) and creamy frozen yoghurt - perfect for a quick, delicious bite on the go.

BIGGEST EKKA IN ALMOST 20 YEARS!



More than 428,000 people came through the gates for the 2025 Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) presented by the Bank of Queensland (BOQ) - the largest crowd in almost two decades.

It was smiles all round as Queenslanders showed their support for the state's largest and most loved event.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said this year's success was testament to the enduring love Queenslanders have for the Ekka.

"Ekka is more than just a Show—it is a reunion of city and country, a celebration of resilience, and a showcase of Queensland's finest," he said.

"We are very grateful to every Queenslanders who came through the gates and made this

the most successful Ekka since 2008.

"The community showed up in droves to celebrate what makes Queensland truly special; we saw smiles, laughter, and a genuine sense of pride."

The RNA once again worked closely with ride and food operators to ensure the Ekka could be enjoyed on any budget amid cost-of-living pressures.

Family bundles and low-cost menu items across 110 food vendors, plus the daily two-for-one ride session, were all embraced by showgoers.

Ekka's rich traditions shone bright, with more than 21,000 entries received across 46 competitions - with some sections recording a 20-30 per cent increase.

The very best of Queensland was on display,

from cookery, quilting, woodchopping and stud beef to poultry, fleece breeds, canine, cats, horses, showjumping and more.

More than 3,400 students and teachers attended Ekka excursions to gain an ag-ucation - an increase of almost 20 per cent on 2024.

Crowds flocked to the night show and fireworks, while animals, rides and showbags created magic moments for all ages.

As always, the Bertie Beetle showbag reigned supreme, with the \$5 Blue Bag proving to be a sweet favourite for budget-conscious visitors.

With such strong support in 2025, the stage is now set for a truly historic celebration next year - the Ekka's 150th anniversary.

RYDGES

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per night

EKKA WRAP

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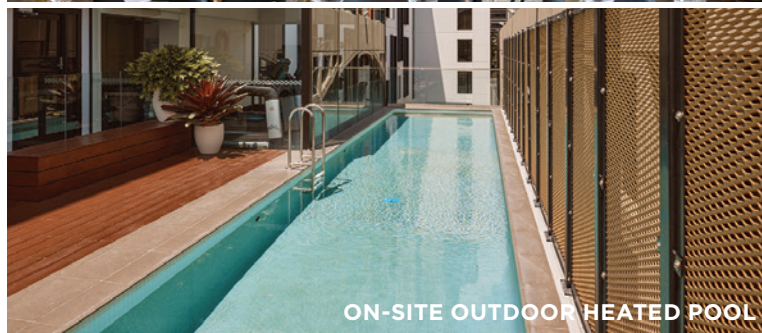
CONTACT OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM
ABOUT EXCLUSIVE EVENT RATES.



ARENA VIEW KING ROOM



SIX ACRES RESTAURANT



ON-SITE OUTDOOR HEATED POOL



'THE LIBRARY' EVENT SPACE



VETERINARY LEADER HONOURED AS EKKA LEGEND

From sleeping in the dairy sheds as a young veterinary student in the 1960s to shaping the Ekka's animal welfare and biosecurity practices in recent years, Dr Roly Neiper was honoured with the RNA's highest accolade – the 2025 Ekka Legend Award.

Roly's association with the Ekka began in the mid-1960s when, as a veterinary student, he spent several years sleeping in the dairy sheds while caring for cattle from a local dairy farm.

Many years later, in December 2014, he returned to where his career began, appointed Chair of the RNA's Veterinary, Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Committee.

Since his first Show in that role in 2015, Roly has been the driving force behind the Ekka's veterinary and animal welfare practices.

A highly respected veterinary surgeon, Roly has served both within government and the RNA, including as Queensland's Chief Veterinary Officer and Director-General of the Department of Primary Industries.

RNA President David Thomas said Roly had brought invaluable expertise to the RNA.

"Biosecurity and animal welfare are of the utmost importance to the RNA and Roly's knowledge and experience have greatly benefited the Show," he said.

"Roly has proactively strengthened our preventative measures, guided our strategies through emerging biosecurity challenges, and always ensured our animals are housed, protected and cared for to the highest standards.

"He has a genuine understanding of our exhibitors' love and care for their animals and is well respected by both RNA staff and exhibitors for his personable approach.

"Roly's leadership has reinforced the RNA's commitment to the highest standards of animal welfare and biosecurity.

"We honour and thank Roly for his invaluable contribution to the Show over the past decade and look forward to continuing to work alongside him."

The Ekka Legend Award recognises individuals who have made a remarkable contribution to the Show.

It was introduced in 2004 and just 18 people have now been the recipient of the RNA's most prestigious honour.

*Offer valid at Rydges Fortitude Valley only and is subject to availability. Blackout dates and restrictions may apply. Terms & conditions apply.

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TRADITION AND TALENT ON SHOW IN EKKA COMPETITIONS



From champion cattle to blue-ribbon cakes, the beating heart of the Ekka has always been its competitions.

In 2025, more than 21,000 entries were received across 46 competitions, with some sections seeing a 20–30% increase in participation.

From the Main Arena featuring cattle and horses to the Channel 7 Pavilion showcasing Arts & Cookery, exhibitors young and old demonstrated their talent, passion and dedication.

We awarded a prize pool of more than \$687,000 and presented over 32,000 ribbons, rosettes and sashes.

A huge thank you to our 730 judges and stewards, whose hard work ensured the competitions ran smoothly.

FAST FACTS

21,349
competition entries

5,593
exhibitors

5,515
prized animals

882
education competition entries

OPENING SOON!

- **Paddock to Palate Competition presented by JBS Australia** – Monday 27 October. Offering almost \$55,000 in prize money and the invaluable chance for producers to benchmark their cattle. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Giant Pumpkin Competition supported by Pillow Talk** - Friday 31 October. Have a go at growing a giant pumpkin! There's more than \$3,400 in prize money up for grabs and a \$1,000 bonus for the winning heaviest pumpkin over 350kg. [Click here for more information.](#)

WHAT A STAR!

Buster, the heaviest bull at the Show at 1,356kg, became an internet sensation during the Ekka. An Ekka TikTok featuring him racked up 2.2 million views and he even made an appearance on national television breakfast show Sunrise! Buster also dominated in the ring, taking out the title of Grand Champion Angus Bull.



Sue and Michael Shawn with their Supreme Cat of Show – an Abyssinian named Osiris(v) Day Dreamer.



Ryan Barker leading the Supreme Dairy Cow of Show - Ardybar Atwood Maddie-ET.



Richard Ogilvie (left) and Boudicea Blatch with Te-Angie Turbo T004 (Hereford), the Santos Champion of Champions Bull.



The stunning Horticultural Displays Competition winner.

2025 GRAND CHAMPIONS

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND STUDENT FERMENTED BEVERAGES	
CHAMPION FERMENTED BEVERAGE	Beerwah State High School (Berry Fruit Wine)
APICULTURE	
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR	Arborwood Honey
AUSTRALIAN YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE	
YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE FINALISTS	The Hectare Hunters
BUSH POETRY	
OVERALL CHAMPION	Justin Geange
CAKE DECORATING	
GRAND CHAMPION	Pauline Herrmann
CANINE	
BEST IN SHOW	B & P Oliphant (Breed: Kerry Blue Terrier, Animal Name: SUP.CH. OLIZURE STORM OF SWORDS)
CATS	
SUPREME ALL BREEDS CAT OF SHOW	Sue Shawn (Breed: Abyssinian, Animal Name: Osiris(v) Day Dreamer)
CREATIVE ART & CRAFT	
GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBIT	Belinda Daniel
DAIRY CATTLE	
SUPREME CHAMPION DAIRY COW	AD & SL Barron (Breed: Holstein, Animal Name: ARDYLBAR ATWOOD MADDIE-ET)
DAIRY GOATS	
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR	Datadoo
EDUCATION ON SHOW	
CHAMPION SCHOOL OF SHOW	Upper Brookfield State School
FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS	
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR (OPEN)	Robert Jukes
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR (INTERMEDIATE)	Brendan Marsh
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR (SENIOR NOVICE)	Mitchell Willoughby Dwyer
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR (JUNIOR NOVICE)	Quinn Coutts
FISH	
GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBIT OF SHOW	Neil Stanton
HORSE	
CHAMPION GENTLEMAN RIDER	Jaspa Beattie – Araluen Motown
CHAMPION LADY RIDER	Lillian Mills - Super Angel
HORTICULTURAL DISPLAYS	
MOST EFFECTIVE DISPLAY	Northern Districts Horticultural Society Inc.
LED STEER	
GRAND CHAMPION LED STEER	Anthony O'Dwyer
GRAND CHAMPION LED STEER CARCASS	Coulda Shoulda Woulda Syndicate
NATURAL FIBRES & WEARABLE ART	
GRAND CHAMPION	Brooke Wills

Paddock to Palate	
CLASS 37 OVERALL WINNER	Palgrove Pastoral Co
CLASS 38 OVERALL WINNER	Keddstock Pty Ltd
CLASS 39 OVERALL WINNER	Sunland Cattle Co Pty Ltd
CLASS 40 OVERALL WINNER	Texus Angus
PAINTING & DRAWING	
GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBIT	Otto Schmidinger - Cristal Creek
CHAMPION PORTRAIT OF SHOW	Lilian Reynolds - The Terminator
PHOTOGRAPHY	
CHAMPION PRINT	Rochelle James - Horses Run
CHAMPION DIGITAL IMAGE	Nick Lefebvre - The Science Museum Valencia
POULTRY	
SUPREME GRAND CHAMPION	Harry Sutton
PRIME LAMBS	
OVERALL CHAMPION PEN OF THREE LAMBS	Bellevue Grazing Company Pty Ltd
OVERALL Paddock to Plate Champion	Peter Hood
QUILTS ACROSS QUEENSLAND	
BEST QUILT OF SHOW	Janet Wood - Twister
RAISING HY-LINE HENS	
OVERALL CHAMPION	Calvary Christian College
SHEEP	
SUPREME CHAMPION BREEDS GROUP OF SHOW	Milton & Hall
SCULPTURE	
CHAMPION SCULPTURE	Ian Cust b- Max my best friend
SHOWJUMPING	
CHAMPION RIDER	Hayley Morris
STUD BEEF	
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS BULL	Ogilvie Pastoral Pty Ltd
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS HEIFER	Diamond Angus - CL Fuller & GJ Iseppi
STUDENT MADE CHEESE	
CHAMPION CHEESE OF SHOW - WHITE MOULD	Beenleigh State High School
CHAMPION CHEESE OF SHOW - BLUE MOULD	Caboolture State High School
THOROUGHBRED & STANDARDBRED	
CHAMPION STANDARDBRED	Lisa Bahr - Creedence
SUPREME CHAMPION THOROUGHBRED	Leanne Jones - O'Thunder
WOODCHOP AND SAWING	
CHAMPION AXEMAN OF SHOW	Brayden Meyer
WOOL	
GRAND CHAMPION MERINO FLEECE OF SHOW	Victoria Downs
YOUNG JUDGES	
MOST SUCCESSFUL COMPETITOR	Brooke Emery
YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE	
OVERALL YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE - EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENT	Girl Guides QLD
OVERALL YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE - BEST MOVEMENT AND/OR ANIMATION	Caboolture State High School
FLORISTRY	
RICHARD & MEGAN CHRISTENSEN AWARD FOR FLORAL DESIGN	Floral Art Society of Queensland Inc.
FASHIONS ON THE FIELD	
GRAND CHAMPION	Milano Imai

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Together, we made this year's Show unforgettable

PRESENTING PARTNER



GRAND CHAMPION PARTNERS



CHAMPION PARTNERS



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MAJOR PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS



If you, or someone you know, would like to be involved as a sponsor for Ekka in 2026 please contact our team

Kerryn Bear

Sponsorship Manager
kbear@rna.org.au
07 3253 3928

Colleen Cullen

Sponsorship Manager
ccullen@rna.org.au
07 3253 3993



The 2025 Ekka ignited the sky like never before, with the EkkaNITES Inferno fireworks extravaganza the most ambitious yet.

Delivered by a team of 13 elite pyrotechnicians working around the clock, the show combined state-of-the-art technology, breathtaking effects and a specially commissioned soundtrack to create a world-class pyromusical experience.

Over the course of the Ekka, nine tonnes of fireworks roared skyward, accompanied by towering flames, dazzling light effects and live pyrotechnic performers.

Behind the scenes, 300 hours of pre-show

preparation and 100 hours of digital design and programming went into crafting the spectacle.

Every firework, flame and flash was perfectly synchronised using the world's most advanced computer firing system, ensuring split-second precision from the first note to the grand finale.

Show highlights included:

- Firepower on scale: 2 truckloads of fireworks and equipment deployed nightly
- Vast firing network: 55 firing positions, including 17 on the windmill
- Flaming intensity: 45 flame units,

including volcano effects, circle flamers and massive UFlames

- Lighting spectacle: 16 PyroStrobes adding electrifying bursts of light
- Live action: 6 human pyro performers, 2 chariot bikes spraying sparks, and a monster truck firing pyrotechnic effects

The result was a high-octane fusion of fireworks, flames, light and music, viewed by more than 20,000 people each night of Show.

The transformation of the Ekka skyline into a living canvas of colour, sound and adrenaline-fuelled energy was the perfect finale to each day of Queensland's biggest event.



The Natural Fibres Fashion Parades presented by Channel Seven once again stunned, showcasing 15 talented designers.

For the first time, the runway was brought to life by dancer-models including past Moulin Rouge performers and acrobats, transforming the catwalk into a high-energy, full-scale production that captivated audiences.

Adding to the excitement, this year's parades have been nominated for the Stand Out Fashion Event at the Women in Fashion Luncheon & Awards 2025, with the winner to be announced on October 24.

EKKA 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Horse competitor awaits their entry onto the Main Arena



A sea of people on People's Day



The competitors took flight at Melville's Duck Racing



The heat was on during the EkkaNITES Inferno show



The steam train arrives at the brand new Exhibition Station



Some 'big kids' enjoy the Euroslide in Sideshow Alley



Ekka started with a bang with an Opening Parade



The high flying RAAF Roulettes put on a show during the Opening Ceremony



Cattle exhibitor enjoys a rest with her cattle on the Main Arena



RNA

'HIGH TEA' FUNDRAISER

2025

What an event!!! What an Ekka!!! The RNA's 'High Tea' Fundraiser was held on Friday 8th August. Achieving the optimum capacity of 450 guests, ladies from near and far turned up to enjoy an afternoon of 'fun, friendship and fundraising'.

The event, in its ninth year, raised \$48,696.00 through a variety of supportive options.

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

[See 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';
- 2024 'Outback Futures' follow-up initiatives;
- **2025 proceeds will be directed to the Longreach School of Distance Education (LSODE). Funds raised will enable the school to expand their musical programme by purchasing instruments for loan.**

After an hour of 'meeting and greeting' everyone took their seats before Samantha Heathwood announced the arrival of the Governor. Samantha is not only involved in the world of television journalism but was also the Miss Rockhampton Showgirl in 2006. The 'Miss Showgirl' movement is close to the hearts of all those involved in Ekka traditions and history.

The Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeanette Young AC PSM, not only addressed the 'High Tea' ladies, but also officially opened the Ekka the following day. Together with her husband, Professor Nimmo, they also returned on Exhibition Wednesday and visited several sections including 'Fine

Arts', 'Ag Hall' and 'Flowers and Garden'.

The Governor's address was followed by a video presentation from the Longreach School of Distance Education. [See link to video.](#)

Everyone was impressed by the enthusiasm and creativity of the children who part-took in this innovative video. It was not surprising to learn that in 2026 the school plans to embark upon a musical production – aimed at giving students a boost to their confidence as well as bringing families in the bush together.

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: [See link to photography](#)

Following on from the video presentation came the traditional EKKA Fashion Parade (presented by Channel 7). This year, the Ekka's Natural Fibres Fashion Parade featured model dancers, including past Moulin Rouge performers and acrobats in a themed, full-scale production.



Our MC:
Channel 7
News presenter
Samantha
Heathwood



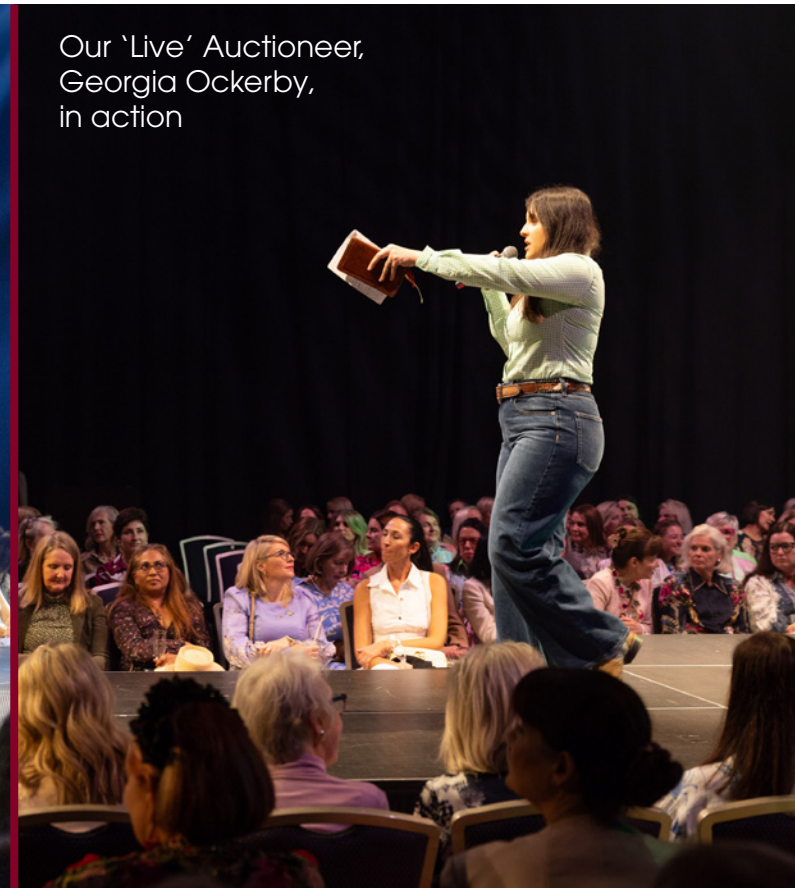
Governor of
Queensland,
Her Excellency
the Honourable
Doctor
Jeannette
Young AC PSM



Fun and Friendship
with Family and Friends



Our 'Live' Auctioneer, Georgia Ockerby, in action



Consternation reigned!!!



A Governor to the rescue!!!

Many guests felt that this was one of the most interesting parades ever presented by the Fashion Parade producers.

At the conclusion of the Fashion Parade everyone remained seated for the 'Live' Auction. We were delighted to welcome the return of livestock auctioneer Georgia Ockerby, who came all the way from Tasmania. Once again, Georgia's flight expenses were most generously covered by her workplace: 'Nutrien Ag Solutions', situated at Bridgewater in Tasmania.

Five unique items went under her hammer:

- **Acrylic painting on canvas** donated by artist – Marina Little;
- **Creative crochet 'Bull's Head'** donated by Abigail Biggs;

- **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;

- **Royal Qld Steakhouse experience** organised through the RNA;

- **Vintage Diamond Cluster ring,** donated by Patti Sedgwick owner of Sedgwick Antique and Estate Jewellery.

This year the 'Live' Auction raised an outstanding \$14,155.00.

The 'Live Auction' item of a 'Crocheted Bull's Head' had an interesting outcome. Abigail Biggs had kindly donated 'Ted' after

hearing that the Committee Chair (Jane Thomas) would like to purchase one of Abigail's creations for her grandson (Oliver is 2½).

To Jane's surprise Ted was much larger than expected and did not fit her expectations of a 'cute and cuddly' bedroom companion. Consternation reigned!!! What would be Ted's fate!!!

Fortunately, the Governor came to the rescue with a most appropriate solution: Ted could be donated to Longreach to commemorate the highly successful 'Great Australian Charity Cattle Drive' that had just occurred between Longreach and Roma. After all, Ted was already sporting a 'Longreach' ear tag.

Rachelle Moore (Principal) and Amy Steginga (Acting Parent Liaison Officer) from the LSOE then mentioned that Ted could be homed in the school's 'Memorabilia Museum', alongside information about the school's own 'Cattle Drive' entrant – a cow named 'Mootilda'. What a capital conclusion to a concerning, 'creative crocheted' conundrum!!!

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. 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.

This year also saw the inclusion of Jane Grealy and her friends who not only supported our event but also took the opportunity to promote cancer awareness. Jane (an artist) re-produces her works on the front of QCGC Gynaecological Symptom Checker cards which she generously distributed to all 'High Tea' guests. As Jane so correctly says: *"As you are a survivor of ovarian cancer you know well the importance of early detection. Mine was found almost by chance and I was one of the "lucky" ones."*

We wish Jane all the best in her quest/dream of eventually having the cards available at all supermarket checkouts and in high schools throughout the state.

Raffle Ticket selling was different this year. Technology, being what it is, allowed us to not only sell tickets at the event but also offer ticket sales on line, in the lead up to the event. Many guests managed to make an early purchase using this new method, which allowed the RNA to efficiently contact all winning numbers. While some of our older guests found the new technology a little challenging we are delighted to announce that this year we had no unclaimed prizes. **Raffle ticket sales raised \$13,595.00.**

Many commented that it was an amazing array of practical prizes that were appealing to all.

Promoters of cancer awareness – Teresa, Heather & Jane



A capital conclusion!!!



Tempting offerings





RNA Charity Committee & Hostesses



Dolly Servin from Duaringa, Lynette Olive from Emerald and Helen Price from Surat



Nicole Mann and Arlie Felton-Taylor from Toowoomba and Lucy Larsson from Myocum



Rachel Wehl from Ilfracombe and Ruth Harpham from Bondi



Mandy Vincent from Hamilton, Suellen Byrne from Newstead, Morna Allen from Clayfield and Amanda Harris from Clayfield



Jill Rowe, Amy Nowak, Committee Chair Jane Thomas, Sarah Nason and Kaye Wison

As with most 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:

- Alison Chandler – Floral Bouquets
- 'Belle Follie' – Designer hat and beaded bag by Wendy Diggles
- 'Benita Red' Massage Therapy – Voucher
- 'Crotcheted Creation' – Abigail Biggs
- 'Deep Grey' – Portrait photography with Lana Noir
- 'Dressed at Windsor' – Ceramic diffuser
- 'Epic Hair' – Voucher and Pamper Pack
- 'Fat Cow' on James St. – Restaurant voucher
- Howard Smith Wharves – Story Bridge Adventure Climb
- Howard Smith Wharves – Dining Voucher
- Kate Warby – Silver and Resin Bangle
- 'Kathron Dry Cleaners' – Voucher
- 'Kuhl-Cher', King St. – Dine-in voucher
- 'La Boite Theatre Company'
- Marina Little – 'Lost in Pacific' Painting
- 'Mary Evelyn Millinery' – Designer hat
- 'Nutrien Ag Solutions' (Bridgewater, Tasmania)
- 'Pamela's Pantry' – Baskets of Goodies
- Patti Sedgwick – 'Sedgwick Antique and Estate Jewellery'
- RNA
- 'Rydgges' Fortitude Valley – Voucher
- Sarah McCamley – Hentley Farm Wine
- 'Steak House & Bar Experience' – 'High Tea' Committee
- Tambo Teddies – Teddy bear
- 'The Bathhouse', Albion – Wellness Experience voucher
- The Fairfax Family
- View Hotels Brisbane
- Virgin Australia – Economy flights for 2 ANYWHERE in Australia

The Hostesses, Committee and I are both proud and delighted that the RNA's 2025 'High Tea' raised over \$48,600.00.

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 our next Exciting, Enjoyable and Entertaining Event. 2026 will be a memorable year for the Ekka which will celebrate its 150th anniversary as Qld's most iconic tradition.

Best wishes until then,

Jane Thomas



Vicki Ross from Hendra, Kate Warby from Samford, Julia Jenyns from Brisbane, Christina Georges from Clayfield and Mary Dickinson



Mary Mohr from Brisbane and Wendy Diggles from Manly



Victoria Hawker from and Nina Kneipp from Goondiwindi

Hannah Perry from Brisbane, Liz Weeks from Kedron, Alana Macaulay from Bardon, Fiona Bryce from Toowoomba and Georgina Poole from Moree

Raffle Table with Lee Beanland & Toowoomba friend

Tambo Teddy with Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM and Narda Roberts

Deann Stevens and Selena Gomersall from last year's recipients, Outback Futures

Kate Greaves from Brisbane, Rachel Brown from Brisbane/Darling Downs, Cara Cavallaro from Stanthorpe and Lou Howland from Mt Cotton

Alison Chandler, Andrea Crothers, Jane Thomas, Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM, Margie Adnam and Gina Fairfax AC



Start your year off
at the Royal ICC

Get in contact
and book your
event with us today!

2026 ROYAL QUEENSLAND AWARDS GET READY!

Preparations are underway for the 2026 Royal Queensland Awards supported by King Street, with calls for stewards now open and competition entries set to launch soon.

In 2025, more than 2,400 entries were judged across seven categories - Branded Beef, Branded Lamb, Cheese and Dairy, Ice Cream, Gelato and Sorbet, Wine, Beer, and Distilled Spirits.

The Royal Queensland Beer Awards will be the first to open entries in mid-November and competition stewards are now being sought. Stewards play a vital role in managing entries and assisting the judges.

Expressions of Interest close Monday 10 November and applications can be submitted by clicking [here](#).

Dedicated to unearthing the nation's top food and beverage products, the Royal Queensland Awards provide Australian producers with a valuable platform to benchmark and promote their products, ensuring they receive the recognition they deserve.

KEY ENTRY DATES:

BEER: November 2025

**CHEESE & DAIRY,
ICE CREAM, GELATO
& SORBET:** January 2026

**BRANDED BEEF &
BRANDED LAMB:**
February 2026

WINE: February 2026

DISTILLED SPIRITS:
Entry date to be confirmed



From 250 to
25,000 pax!

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venues to
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