

**EKKA!**  
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10-19 August 2006  
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**media release**

The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland  
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Saturday, 19 August 2006

## **EKKA WRAPS UP FOR THE 130<sup>th</sup> YEAR**

Today was the final day (for 12 months) for Queenslanders to experience country life in the heart of the city as the state's biggest and best-loved event, the EKKA, came to a close.

Ten sunny days attracted more than 500,000 people to the RNA Showgrounds to enjoy the Ekka's amazing array of rides, exhibitions, demonstrations, music, performances and entertainment.

RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards OAM said this year's EKKA was a spectacular success with strong attendance levels, thousands of competition entries and wonderful weather.

"Strong crowds and visitor feedback indicate that the EKKA has once again proven its status as Queensland's biggest and most loved Show," Dr Edwards said.

"With 40 major competition categories, this year's EKKA attracted over 28,000 entries. Almost 3,000 first place prizes were awarded," he said.

This year's EKKA was not short of entertainment, with over 150 events each day, including demonstrations, performances and judging events.

Dr Edwards said with such a broad range of entertainment and festivities on offer at the Show, some interesting statistics had emerged.

"The Coffee Club presented 50 fashion parades which were enjoyed by almost 50,000 EKKA visitors," he said.

The talented riders from the Freestyle Motorcross team completed around 234 jumps in the Energex Green Arena over the ten days.

The Energex Green Arena certainly opened and closed with a bang with approximately 25,000 fireworks let off during the Dairy Farmers Fireworks shows.

The city and country folk who participated in the 'Whiptacular' performances each cracked their whip some 80 times per show. In total, over 36,000 whip cracks were heard in the Energex Green Arena.

There was an abundance of food at this year's EKKA with approximately 400,000 Dagwood Dogs and 200,000 Nestle Peters Strawberry Sundaes enjoyed by EKKA visitors.

Dr Edwards said that hundreds of tonnes of garbage and manure was collected as a result of the high attendance rates, and the thousands of poultry, cattle and horses involved with the Show.

Close to 20,000 parents visited police for armbands for their children just in case they were separated. The Courier-Mail EKKA Adventure Trail showbags sold out early with thousands of people enjoying the hunt for free goodies, rides and food from 30 different stalls.

"I would like to thank all our volunteers, RNA Councillors and staff, EKKA sponsors, Queensland media and the people of Queensland for making the 130<sup>th</sup> EKKA a huge success," said Dr Edwards.

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