

**EKKA!**  
**FRESH**  
as you like  
10-19 August 2006  
[www.ekka.com.au](http://www.ekka.com.au)

## media release

The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland  
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For Immediate Release

### **EKKA celebrates 130 years**

The 130<sup>th</sup> Royal Queensland Show or 'Ekka' as Queenslanders call it, kicks off at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane on August 10.

The Show has come a long way since a bag of coal was given away as the first showbag back in 1876.

Unlike any other royal show around Australia, the Ekka is staged in the inner city of Brisbane, where for 10 days the country truly converges on the city.

It's the only Show in Australia that still allows competitors to 'live in' with their valuable stock and about the only city where, when the Show is in town, you'll see jackaroos walking down Queen Street with their Akubras and RM Williams boots.

It's hard to believe that on 22 hectares of prime inner city land, you'll find around 2,000 head of cattle, not to mention the hundreds of other animals from alpacas to miniature ponies.

The first Show was held at this very location. Called the 'Intercolonial Exhibition of 1876', the day was declared a holiday and 17,000 people, just about the entire population of Brisbane (Moreton Bay), attended in their finery.

130 years on and the anticipation and excitement of the Show coming to town for its 600,000 visitors, is just as strong as ever.

RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards believes that no other event comes close to creating the atmosphere and buzz of excitement you find at the Ekka. "Smiles are infectious here," he said.

Visitors to Ekka 2006 are in for some great entertainment and loads of fun. Here's a glimpse of what's in store this year:

### ***Competitions***

The Ekka is renowned for providing a first rate competition platform for enthusiasts in all livestock, craft, cooking, cultural activities and academic pursuits. Close to 30,000 entries across 35 categories are received, judged and displayed each year for Ekka visitors. Keep an eye out for the Home Grown Giant Vegetable competition, a new one for this year.

### ***Sideshow Alley***

Four new rides will excite thrill-seekers including *Extreme Speed*, *F1 Euro Slide*, *No Limit* and *Space Roller*.

### ***Pavilions***

The RACQ Farmyard Friends animal nursery, a favourite with the kids, will be bigger and more interactive for children and parents to enjoy. Other pavilions include the Showbag, Australiana, Automotive, Bushmans Trading Post, Ekka Emporium, Woolworths Fresh Food, Futures Zone, Wool and Outdoor Living pavilions.

### ***Fabulous Fashion***

The daily Coffee Club Fashion Parades featuring some of Australia's top designers are a favourite with Show goers and this year is no exception. A new student category by the Moreton Institute of TAFE will showcase the latest in fashion design and designers.

### ***Tastes of Queensland 'Kitchen'***

Hosted by celebrity chefs Peter Howard and Alison Alexander, this year's *Taste's of Queensland Kitchen* and Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion will be bigger and better than ever. If you enjoy fine food, wine, and a comfortable seat and want to learn more about Queensland produce and what to do with it, this is the spot for you.

***Ekka 2006 runs from 10 – 19 August at the RNA Showgrounds, Gregory Terrace Brisbane. For full program and entertainment details, visit the Ekka website at [www.ekka.com.au](http://www.ekka.com.au)***

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