

MEDIA RELEASE

May 12, 2018

Novice green thumb smashes giant pump-kings!

Marburg's Steven Fritz and his 206kg pumpkin has outgrown the veggie patch kings, winning the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Giant Pumpkin Competition presented by Pillow Talk at the Brisbane Showgrounds today for the very first time.

Steven claimed the coveted Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show, with his gigantic gourd ending Minden father and son Geoff and Tony Frohloff's four year winning streak.

Tony claimed second place with a 140kg whopper, while his Dad Geoff, who still holds the 261.5kg Ekka record set in 2015, came third with a pumpkin weighing 135.5kg.

Mr Fritz said it was his first time growing a giant pumpkin and he was thrilled to beat his neighbours in some friendly competition.

"I live near the Frohloff family and they've actually been giving me lots of tips and advice – they probably gave me too much advice, but thank you to them," he said.

"It's my first time growing anything for a competition so I didn't expect my pumpkin to get so big. I think the good soil in the Marburg area helped and also lots of water and fertilisers."

The Frohloff family did however have a win, with Tony's son Jordan taking out the Youth Class with his 61.5kg pumpkin.

In the school competition, Bullyard State School near Bundaberg came out on top with their pumpkin tipping the scales at 40kg, beating St Patricks College in Shorncliffe, with their entry weighing 8.5kg.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said the giant pumpkin competition dates back to the very first show in 1876.

"This is one of our most iconic agricultural competitions, recognising and rewarding growers for producing the best of the best," he said.

"I congratulate Steven on his win and I'm also pleased to see so many school and youth entries, as it's important the next generation understand that everything starts with agriculture from the food they eat to the clothes they wear."

Some of the giant pumpkins will return to the Brisbane Showgrounds in August, to be displayed in the Agricultural Education Hall during Ekka.



MEDIA RELEASE

Those who now have the seed of pumpkin growing planted in their head, can sign up for some free Giant Atlantic Pumpkin seeds at the show.

The giant pumpkin competition signals the official countdown to Ekka, which is now just 90 days away.

2018 GIANT PUMPKIN COMPETITION RESULTS

Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show: Steven Fritz - 206kg

Class 1 - Open:

1st Steven Fritz – 206kg 2nd Tony Frohloff – 140kg 3rd Geoff Frohloff – 135.5kg

Class 2 - School:

1st Bullyard State School – 40kg
2nd St Patricks College – 8.5kg
3rd Bowenville State School – 8kg

Class 3 - Youth:

1st Jordan Frohloff – 61.5kg 2nd Dylan Frohloff – 36.5kg 3rd Riley Frohloff – 24.5kg

For more information please contact the Ekka Media Unit: Veronica Carew General Manager Communications Ph: 07 3253 3930/ 0408 323 631

Email: vcarew@rna.org.au

Nicole Clifton Media and Communications Officer Ph: 07 3253 3931/0417 451 775 Email: nclifton@rna.org.au