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New pump-king almost pipped by record 171kg youth entry

Minden's Geoff Frohloff only just outgrew a first-time youth entrant with his 196kg pumpkin, to win the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Giant Pumpkin Competition supported by Pillow Talk at the Brisbane Showgrounds today.

Geoff's almost 200kg giant gourd saw him claim the coveted Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show title, taking home a total of \$1,050 in prize money.

"I used a lot of fertiliser and mulch, plus during the hot weather I watered the pumpkins every day – some days they received 1,000 litres of water," Mr Frohloff said.

The veteran grower, who still holds the 261.5kg Ekka record set in 2015, was almost pipped by eight-year-old youth entrant Jimmy Finch from Bowenville with his whopping 171kg record setting youth entry.

It was Jimmy's first time growing a giant pumpkin, after being given the seeds by his teacher at Bowenville State School last September. He not only won the youth class, but he also smashed the current 64kg Ekka youth record set by Angela Kalkaus in 2015.

Jimmy said he only expected his pumpkin to grow to supermarket size.

"I watered it, put fertiliser on it and I sang to it," he said.

Geoff's son and 2019 Ekka pump-king Tony Frohloff took out second and third place in the Open class with his 174kg and 171.5kg pumpkins.

Meanwhile in the Schools class, Downlands College grew two 33.5kg pumpkins to claim first and second place, just beating Corinda State High School in third with a 31kg entry.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said the giant pumpkin competition was the first to crown its Grand Champion in the Ekka's comeback year.

"There is wonderful community sentiment for the Show following the cancellation of the 2020 Ekka due to COVID-19," he said.

"Planning is full steam ahead, there's great excitement and we've seen great interest in our competitions, with thousands of entries already received."

The giant pumpkin competition is one of the Ekka's most iconic agricultural competitions, dating back to the first show in 1876.

Some of the giant pumpkins will return to the Brisbane Showgrounds in August, to be displayed in the Agricultural Hall presented by seqwater at the Ekka. Green thumbs wanting to try their luck next year, can pick up their free Atlantic Giant Pumpkin seeds at the Show.

The giant pumpkin competition signals the official countdown to the return of the Ekka, which will kick off in just 104 days.

2021 GIANT PUMPKIN COMPETITION RESULTS

Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show – Geoff Frohloff - 196kg

Class 1 – Open:

1st Geoff Frohloff – 196kg

2nd Tony Frohloff - 174kg

3rd Tony Frohloff – 171.5kg

Class 2 – School:

1st Downlands College - 33.5kg

2nd Downlands College - 33.5kg

3rd Corinda State High School - 31kg

Class 3 – Youth:

1st Jimmy Finch – 171kg

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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