

For immediate release

Cobb & Co Journey to the Ekka

The appearance of a genuine Cobb & Co coach delivering mail will be just one of the many attractions to see at this year's Royal Queensland Show, where country and city folk unite to celebrate ten days of Ekka fun.

2004 marks the 150th commemoration of Cobb & Co's humble beginnings in Australia, where the coach service played a significant role in the history of land transport in Queensland. This year, a special mail delivery tour of country Queensland will mark Cobb & Co's impressive milestone and will re-create the final run of the service 80 years ago.

The pioneering spirit of Cobb & Co forged its historical place in Queensland history when the transport service made its final run in the world from Surrat to Yuleba in Queensland on the 14th August 1924.

The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) will commemorate the final run of the service with a letter writing program between rural and urban school children, with the highlight being the delivery of the letters by a traditional Cobb & Co coach.

The five-day trek from Charleville on Monday 2 August through to Brisbane on Friday 6 August will re-create the final run of Cobb & Co and will recognise and celebrate the transport service's contribution to rural and urban Queensland.

Starting in Charleville on August 2nd, a Cobb & Co coach will make its journey through Mitchell, Roma, Surat, Yuleba, Miles, Chinchilla, Dalby, Toowoomba, Gatton and Ipswich, before arriving in Brisbane at the Ekka's Main Arena on Friday 6 August.

RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards said he was pleased the RNA was involved in celebrating Cobb & Co's 150th commemoration and looked forward to seeing a traditional Cobb & Co coach making its grand entrance at the Ekka Main Arena on Friday, August 6.

"The Ekka is a signature event for the RNA. It's like a family homecoming for Queenslanders. In the Ekka's earliest days, Cobb & Co coaches used to bring people to the Show, so we're very excited to be part of celebrating its contribution to Queensland," Dr Edwards said.

The special mail delivery service will be sponsored by Australia Post and the project will be supported by the Minister for Education, Hon Anna Bligh MP, and the Minister for Communities, Hon Warren Pitt MP, as well as Bendigo Bank, Budget Starline Hotel in Miles and Budget Coachman Hotel in Toowoomba.

The Royal Queensland Show runs from August 5 -14 at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane.

Mail Delivery Route:

Day 1, Monday August 2: Journey begins in Charleville, then to Mungallala, Mitchell, and overnight in Roma.

Day 2, Tuesday August 3: Parade in Roma, then to Surat, Yuleba, Miles (overnight).

Day 3, Wednesday August 4: Parade in Miles, then to Chinchilla, Dalby, and overnight in Toowoomba.

Day 4, Thursday August 5: Parade in Toowoomba, then to Ipswich (overnight).

Day 5, Friday August 6: Journey finishes from Ipswich to the Brisbane Ekka Main Arena.

ENDS

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