



**EKKA!**

# Media Release

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Saturday 20 August 2005

## **EKKA WRAPS UP FOR ANOTHER 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.

Fine weather for most of the Show meant strong crowds with close to 600,000 people enjoying all the fun, food and festivities at the Ekka.

RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards OAM said Ekka 2005 was one of the best in recent history, with high attendance figures, record competition entries and of course lots of warm, sunny days.

"This year's Show definitely went off with a bang with Lady Cannonball Stephanie Smith drawing huge crowds for her first Australian appearance," Dr Edwards said.

"Throughout the 10 days of Ekka, Stephanie was shot across the Energex Main Arena 16 times, covering a total distance of almost 960 metres."

Dr Edwards said with so many different performances, events and people at the Ekka, some interesting statistics had emerged.

"Ekka 2005 was clean and green with around 50 tonnes of recyclable waste, 70 tonnes of cardboard and 100 tonnes of general waste collected," he said.

"The Botanic Gardens will be fertilised with more than 80 tonnes of animal manure that was collected from the 4,000 horses, 3,500 cattle, 3,500 dogs and 3,000 poultry."

There was plenty of food for everyone at this year's show with over 350,000 dagwood dogs, 400,000 buckets of chips and 9,000 litres of tomato sauce being consumed, proving once again to be the Show favourites. Another Ekka institution, the Nestle Peters Strawberry Sundae, was also popular, with nearly 200,000 cones sold.

Showbags sold like crazy with close to 500,000 bags rushing out of the Triple M Showbag Pavilion in the arms of thousands of delighted Ekka visitors.

Entertainment over the 10 days saw the Holden Stormriders precision driving team roar around the Energex Main Arena 150 times, before 19,000 fireworks exploded into the night sky, delighting young and old alike, in the Dairy Farmers Fireworks display.

The Big Wheel and the Chair Lift were the most popular rides, with the Big Wheel doing approximately 43,200 rotations and each chair on the Chair Lift travelling 480km over the 10 day's of Ekka.

"For some people the Ekka was also hard work, including the models in the Coffee Club Fashion Parades who walked 35km up and down the catwalk, the woodchoppers who hacked and sawed their way through some 420 logs, and Hypnotist Shane St James who left more than 500 Ekka visitors spellbound with his spectacular stage-show.

"I would like to thank all our volunteers, RNA Councillors and staff, Ekka Sponsors, Queensland media and the people of Queensland for making Ekka 2005 a terrific success," said Dr Edwards.

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