



Saturday 16 August 2008

QUEENSLANDERS FLOCK TO THE EKKA

In what is being hailed as one of the best Ekka's ever, close to half a million Queenslanders passed through the gates of the RNA Showgrounds this year to experience all the fun of the Royal Queensland Show.

RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards said after a disappointing turnout last year, it was just terrific to see people return this year.

"Thank you Queensland for your support and love of the Show. It was wonderful to have you back," he said.

"I think this is the best crowd we have had for a number of years and judging by smiles on faces throughout the past ten days, everyone has had a ball," Dr Edwards said.

There were some firsts at Ekka 08, namely the sell out of Bertie Beetle Bags, prompting a second shipment of 45 palletes delivered to the RNA Showgrounds in the early hours of Friday morning.

Nestle Peter's legendary Strawberry Sundaes also sold out. Ice creams on the last two days of the Show were scooped from the ice cream tub and being more rounded than flat, presented some strawberry balancing issues!

The most popular destinations were Animal Boulevard, Woodchop, the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion, The Coffee Club Parades, Peters Enchanted Park and Cattlemen's Bar.

The final Best in Show award was presented at 3pm today in the Dog Pavilion to a Fox Terrier Smooth Hair named Champion Wyninebah.

Ekka 2008 Fun Facts:

- Ekka-goers embraced their inner greenie this year by recycling over 85 bins full of recyclable waste
- More than 130,000 people fed and cuddled baby animals in the RACQ animal nursery
- More than 150,000 dagwood dogs were consumed
- 120 bright and chirpy baby chicks were hatched and two Red Boer Goats were born
- 15,000 people a day enjoyed a cool ale, conversation (and probably some kisses) at Cattlemen's Bar
- Most popular Showbags for 2008 included High School Musical 2, Hannah Montana, Dora the Explorer, Cadbury and the Rip Snorter Super Bag
- The Coon exhibit in the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion sold close to 20,000 \$1 cheese toasties
- Best food exhibitor this year went to The Cupcake Parlour – who sold tens of thousands of their uniquely decorated and delicious cupcakes
- At least 800 hard-boiled eggs were used in the Sunny Queen Egg and Spoon Race and 400 sack races were run in Peters Enchanted Park
- Bethonga Pineapples gave away 40,000 tastes of their famously fresh pineapples and had to make a dash to Chinatown on day 7 to purchase as many toothpicks as they could find
- Petey Pies sold approximately 10,000 meat pies (that's 1.2 tonnes of meat!)
- **Best Extreme Ride** – Skywalker. **Best Ride** - Supa Sizzler. **Best Children's Ride** - the Sea Xplorer. **Best Game** - The Simpson's Wacky Giant Water Raceway

Media Contact: Andrea Sackson 0414 672 318

**Grand
Champion
Sponsors:**

