



Tuesday 22 January 2008

## **ENTERING 'EKKA' COMPETITIONS MADE EASY**

The RNA will introduce a new on-line entry system for four major sections at this year's Royal Queensland Show (Ekka 2008).

Entrants for the Canine, Royal Queensland Wine Show, Beef and Horse competition sections will have the choice of entering via the Ekka website with the simple click of a button.

The RNA Entries team receives around 27,000 Ekka entries every year across 22 major sections and thousands of individual categories.

RNA General Manager Corporate Services Brendan Christou said for 131 years, EKka entries have been paper based and manually entered and receipted.

"Competitions are the essence of the Ekka. It's an opportunity for people from regional towns and cities across Australia to showcase their talents and vie for that coveted Champion of Show title.

"A win at the Ekka can add value to the price of your stock and can launch careers. It's an important competition, so there is immense pressure on the entries department at this time of year.

"This system will provide a more accurate and timely entry process, with competitors having access to confirmed entries almost immediately.

"Four major sections will be available for on-line entries this year, with more to follow in 2009. I don't expect the manual system will ever be replaced entirely, but in the years to come there will be greater choice," said Mr Christou.

The on-line entries system will be up and running in March 2008 via the Ekka website [www.ekka.com.au](http://www.ekka.com.au). Just follow the links from the home page.

### **NOTES FOR THE EDITOR**

At this stage, FOUR sections will be offered under Online Entries in 2008.

#### **Canine**

Last year, there were 2,962 entries in the Canine Competition. These entries came from 1,326 exhibitors.

#### **Wine (Royal Queensland Wine Show)**

Last year, there were 2,332 entries in the Royal Queensland Wine Show. These entries came from 211 exhibitors.

#### **For more information**

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**Beef**

The Beef Section of competition is split into three main areas – Stud, Prime and Led Steer. Across all three sections there were 2,152 exhibits entered by 609 exhibitors.

**Horses**

The Horse Section of competition is split into five main areas – Stud Horses, Thoroughbreds, Horses in Action, Showjumping and Pony Club. Across all five sections there were 4,332 exhibits entered by 748 exhibitors.

Other Ekka competitions include: Alpacas, Apiculture, Birds, Boer Goats, Bush Poetry, Cake Decorating, Chainsaw, Cookery, Creative Art & Craft, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Produce and Goats, District Exhibits, Education on Show, Eggs, Farriers and Blacksmiths, Fruit & Vegetables, Fruit Wines, Giant Vegetables, Hoof & Hook, Painting & Drawing, Photography, Pigeons, Pisciculture, Poultry, Prime Lambs, Queensland Youth Exhibits, Quilts Across Queensland, Sculpture, Sheep Dog Trials, Angoras & Mohair Fleeces, Woodchop, Wool and Young Judges.

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