

media release



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EKKA FAREWELLS QUEENSLAND FOR ANOTHER YEAR

BRISBANE: Around 400,000 people have poured through the gates of this year's Royal Queensland Show, with Spring-like weather casting warmth on the past ten days of competition, entertainment and Ekka fun.

Queenslanders have enjoyed the wacky, the wonderful, the thrills, the glamour, the delicious treats, the fierce competition and the Wow that is Ekka.

"Ekka 09 has been wonderful," RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards said. "Ekka patrons know how to have fun and they've created a great atmosphere at the RNA Showgrounds.

"We've had superstars, rock stars and stars in the eyes of children seeing things for the first time here at the Show," he said.

"This year's competition on and off the Energex Community Arena has been superb. Produce, livestock, breeding and individual talents have been judged and champions recognised and awarded," Dr Edwards said.

"It takes hundreds of dedicated exhibitors, carnival operators, sponsors, judges, stewards, competitors, volunteers and staff to make the Ekka the best-loved event year after year. Thanks go to them and the people who have come to enjoy the Show."

Headline act Evermore play to Ekka crowds tonight along with a jam-packed Ekka Ignites program in the Main Arena. Ekka will be back at the RNA Showgrounds next year with planning already underway for 2010.

FUN FACTS FROM EKKA 2009:

- National Foods Limited (Dairy Farmers) broke their daily sales record for the \$1 dollar coon toasties with 3,040 sold on Wednesday (People's Day), beating the daily sales record of the Sydney Show
- The Show's Event Production Manager walked 146.6 kilometres (that's 200,912 steps)
- 6.5 tonnes of strawberries have been used in the legendary Ekka Sundaes
- Beef Cattle had 2,600 entries, Canine Competition had 2,944 (an increase for both competitions)
- In the Sunny Queen Little Miracles Newborn Corner, people have returned up to six times a day to check in on the progress of labour; and 40 Ekka lambs were born
- The iconic Chairlift travelled in excess of 400km over the ten days
- 14 models did 54 parades over 7 days / 100 outfits in total / 5,292 outfit changes
- The longest visit to the 450 animals in the nursery was 3.5 hours and the lady did not want to leave
- The Cupcake Parlour sold thousands of cupcakes, the most popular being Choccy Chewsday flavour with Ekka visitors snapping up in excess of 500.
- 225 Showtime FMX ramp jumps performed for the Ekka IgNITES programs.
- On average 1,000 punnets of strawberries were sold daily from the Brisbane Markets Agricultural Hall
- 150 chickens hatched
- E.A.T (Ekka Adventure Trail) kits sold out. 3,500 were sold compared to 1,680 in '08.

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