



Tuesday 16 June 2009

COMPETITION JUDGING

The judging panels will be lining up to lend their expert opinion to the first round of judging at Ekka 2009 starting on Tuesday 23 June.

From cookery to art, felines to olive oil, the fare and animals will be lined up before the judges for the Ekka's 45 major competition categories, with hundreds of classes of competition under each major category.

"This is seriously exciting competition," said RNA Chief Executive Jonathan Tunny. "The ribbons have arrived and we're polishing the trophies ready for this year's winners in fine arts, cookery, quilting, prime beef, horses, eggs, fish and many more grand competitions," he said.

This year there is more at stake for the produce competitors with the introduction of the New Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show Brand.

New Royal Qld Food and Wine Show Brand

In 2009 the inaugural **Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show** will be launched. Just as winners of the Royal Queensland *Wine Show* have for many years had the opportunity to display a gold, silver or bronze medal sticker on their bottles, from this year onwards, so will other winning fine produce items.

Next year more items will be added to the Food and Wine Show competition, including chocolate, coffee, lamb and sausages. In future the RNA would like to see produce in the supermarket displaying a Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show champion of show label.

New Sample Bag

As added incentive, Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show competition winners will have samples of their prize-winning produce included in the new Ekka Sample Bag which will be available for sale for the first time. The opportunity to sample the best Queensland producers have to offer, will no longer be the luxury of judges alone, with a cold or ... Sample Bag available for purchase during Ekka 2009. ***AWAITING FURTHER INFO FROM SALLY***

Branded Beef Competition

Judging for Ekka 2009 starts with the Branded Beef judging on 23 June at the RNA Showgrounds.

This competition is all about finding the best retail beef on the Australian market with competition this year extended to open class, CLASS 39, for any Branded Beef product including MSA, Organic and non MSA.

HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT'S NEW FOR EKKA 2009 COMPETITIONS:

- For the first time in Ekka competition history FELINES will make their entrance at the Show.
- On the canine front new breed classes for BABY PUPPIES across all breeds and WHITE SWISS SHEPHERD will complement the 215 different breeds already on show throughout the Ekka.

RNA Showgrounds

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www.rnashowgrounds.com.au www.ekka.com.au



- Schools and students across Queensland with chickens in their care can enter the new SCHOOLS POULTRY competition this year.
- Ekka's new EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL SHOW will award two major trophies in 2009 for the Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil of Show and the Best Queensland Extra Virgin Olive Oil of Show.
- A new combined competition, CLASS 37, highlights the comprehensive beef supply chain from the paddock to the plate.
- New to the Dairy Produce competition category is the new classes in Reduced or Low Fat Cheddar Cheese; Cottage Cheese; Champion Ice Cream and Gelato; White Milk; and a Buffalo, Goat and Sheep Milk class.
- A new event in the Ekka Dairy Cattle competition is the **Stan Paulger Memorial Dairy Youth Team Challenge**, which aims to promote the participation of young people in all breeds.
- The Ekka 2009 Farriers and Blacksmiths Competition will also incorporate the 2009 Australian Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (AFBA) National Championships.
- New for Stud Beef: Belmont Red has been re-entered as a breed after an absence of some years
- New for Led Steer: Champion and Reserve Champion Junior Led Heifer
- Horses: the heavy Shire Horse re-entering after a lengthy absence; and a new novice championship for Hacks.

For schedules and all the details of Ekka competition visit www.ekka.com.au or contact the RNA entries manager Andrew Tudor on 07 3253 3921.

Ekka 2009 runs from August 6 – 15 at the RNA Showgrounds, Brisbane.

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