

August 14, 2016

Showstopper Sunday brings Ekka to an end

Queensland's biggest annual event, the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) draws to a close in Brisbane tonight with hundreds of thousands of people coming together to celebrate what makes the state great.

After 10 days of competition, exhibitions and entertainment, a supersized fireworks finale will be held to end the show on a bang this evening.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou paid tribute to the public who once again came out to support the show which has been running since 1876.

"We won't know final numbers for a few days however crowds are up on last year particularly on People's Day, Super Ride Tuesday and today," he said.

"Yesterday more than 45,000 people came to the second last day of show, a fantastic result.

"If today is equally as good, then we'll be on track to hit around the high 300'000s just short of 400,000."

Mr Christou said the message that Ekka was now open for two full weekends was starting to get through and our dedicated two for one ride and food days.

"The first weekend of Ekka always attracts big crowds and that's what we want to see for the second weekend – which we're confident will happen over time."

Tomorrow, planning will start for next year's Ekka which will celebrate the 140th Royal Queensland Show - a very special year.

Until next year...here's Ekka 2016 by the numbers...

- \$200 million – Amount the Ekka generates for the Brisbane economy
- 3,500 + jobs created
- 400 + retailers
- 550 exhibitor stands
- 184,000 + Dagwood Dogs eaten
- 152,000 + Strawberry Sundaes
- 40,000 + cheese toasties (two tonne of butter and four tonne of cheese)
- 4,000 + burgers and 4,000 + seafood varieties eaten
- 176,000 + schooners of beer
- 36,000 + cans of rum
- 2,000 punnets of chocolate dipped strawberries
- 5,000 + award-winning steaks
- 7,000 + CWA scones
- 33,000 + glasses of wine
- 6,600 + tasting plates of award-winning steak and lamb
- 3,900 corn on the cob (that's 130 boxes of corn!)

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- 1,500 + wood fired pizzas
- 10,000 + chip on a stick (that's more than 4 tonne of potatoes!)
- 6,000 + Longboard burgers
- 10 Phat Bastard burgers (weighing 1.8kg per burger) eaten – no one successfully finished the burger!
- 1,000 + burrito bowls
- 2,000 + cheese on a stick
- 2,000 + bowls of mac and cheese (that's more than a tonne of pasta and half a tonne of cheese!)
- 1,000 + giant lamingtons
- 200 + cruffins (a croissant and muffin combined)
- 600 + cutting boards
- 300 + lavender teddy bears
- 30 + massage chairs
- 30 + arcade games
- 600 + pairs of Ugg boots
- 700 + pairs of work boots
- 10 horse saddles
- 6,000 + Firefighter calendars sold
- 50,000 + fireworks fired (that's more than a tonne of fireworks!)
- 61,908 - #Ekka Instagram posts
- 3.4 million – Amount of people Ekka Facebook posts have reached
- 70,404 Facebook page likes
- 8 tonne of manure collected each day of show – to be turned into high grade soil
- 35 tonnes of cardboard waste collected from bins and 1.2 tonnes of plastic

*numbers are an estimate only

Most popular showbags: No surprises that more than 150,000 Bertie Beetle showbags sold (the most popular showbag this year) as well as around 20,000 Wonka bags and 5,000 each of Shopkins, PAW Patrol and Pokemon (the Pokemon bag sold out for a few days before more stock arrived).

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