

Preserves back in vogue

PRESERVES are making a comeback on the program at the Ekka this year. Popular in the 1950s and '60s, cooking your own spreads has experienced a resurgence in the past 10 years.

This year there will be 222 preserves entries, and 14 entries in the cottage industry section for the more advanced cooks.

Competition judge Alison Alexander said there have been some excellent quality preserves coming through the show circuit.

"I think there is a lot more interest in it and more recently younger people are having a go at making a tomato relish or strawberry jam," she said.

The first thing she looks out for is flavour.

"Taste is all-important but the look is also important," Alison said.

"If I am looking at a jam or a marmalade, I am looking for a good set or gel – it shouldn't be rubbery. If it is a chutney or relish, I want the flavour of the vegetable to come through and for it to be balanced.

"It's important to make sure the sugar, vinegar and vegetables are all in balance."

Alison enjoys being able to taste all the entries, but it can be a tough job selecting a winner when the quality of entries is high.



Another aspect that stands out to her keen eye is attention to detail.

"I love all preserves but I look out for beautifully cut pieces of fruit or vegetables that give it a good appearance."

Although she is the sole judge for the event, this year she will be bringing someone along to assist her.

"I like to encourage people to get involved in judging so we will have judges in future years, and we always like to support people who want to have a go. There are some very good cooks out there and I would love to encourage everyone to enter." – *Story: MELODY PEDLER.* **E**

Kennedy returns to high fashion

ALEXANDER Kennedy is the designer behind the Kennedy & Forbes label, which for the past decade has dressed some of Australia's most prominent and powerful women.

After taking a two-year sabbatical, Alexander has returned to what he does best, and is offering a bespoke service from his Brisbane studio.

Exquisite fabrics are a signature of his clothing and are sourced from around the globe, satisfying his penchant for the highest quality textiles.

He offers a couture service focusing on tailored corporate wear and special occasion dressing, including mother of the bride/groom and racewear.

Alexander is a genius at dressing women



in clothes that suit their body shape and proportion, regardless of size.

● To arrange a consultation with Alexander at his Brisbane studio, call (07) 3161 4425 or 0478 754 303.

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