

June 29, 2018

Whey to go! Sandgate student cheese makers cream the competition again

Sandgate District State High School students couldn't 'curd' their excitement today, taking out the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Student Made Cheese Competition camembert class for the second year in a row at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

The school won the Mould Ripened Cheese White category with its entry titled 'cam you bert the camembert.' Not only has the school won the past two years, it has placed for eight, taking home two thirds, two seconds and four firsts.

Renowned dairy expert and Chief Judge Russell Smith said Sandgate's winning camembert was as good as any commercial product.

"The cheese was superbly made, with a soft texture and engaging earthy mushroom flavour," he said.

"It's quite remarkable that Sandgate has consistently dominated the competition. It's a credit to not only the students, but to the teachers as well - they obviously engage their students to a level that allows them to produce winning cheeses year after year."

Meanwhile in the Mould Ripened Cheese Blue category, Caboolture State High came out on top with their cheese titled Blue Floyd.

Mr Smith said Australia's most awarded cheese maker Ueli Berger from King Island Dairy, who judges the competition with him, was so impressed that he wanted to eat the whole cheese.

"For Ueli to rate this cheese so highly is a huge compliment to the school. It can be difficult to create the right balance of flavours with blue cheese, but this one ticked all the boxes in texture and flavour."

Mr Smith and Mr Berger tasted their way through 154 cheeses from 26 Queensland schools this week and were blown away by the quality.

"The overall standard was just phenomenal, with 80 to 90 per cent of both the blue and white cheeses technically very well made," Mr Smith said.

"The quality increases each year and that is a fantastic credit to the teachers, assistants and students."

Many of the students will return to the Brisbane Showgrounds in August for the Ekka, known as Queensland's largest classroom, which is now just 41 days away.

2018 WINNERS:

Class 1 – Mould Ripened Cheese – White

Winner – Sandgate District State High School - Cam you bert the camembert

2nd Place – Pacific Lutheran College - Alluring Atlantic

3rd Place – St Paul's School - The Camembears

Class 2 – Mould Ripened Cheese – Blue

Winner – Caboolture State High - Blue Floyd

2nd Place – Sandgate District State High School - The Blue-tang Clan

3rd Place – Bowenville State School - Bluey

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