

May 11, 2026

From chalkboards to cheeseboards: Teachers get *cultured* at RNA Workshops

Teachers from across Queensland are stepping out of the classroom and into the world of artisan food production this week, thanks to the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association (RNA) Teachers Cheese Making Workshops.

Starting today, 29 teachers from 19 schools across Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Caboolture, Ipswich, and Toowoomba will learn how to craft camembert and blue cheese under the guidance of renowned dairy expert and cheesemaker Russell Smith.

The workshops combine classroom theory with hands-on cheesemaking, giving teachers the skills and confidence to guide students in producing show-quality entries for the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Student Made Cheese Competition in September.

Run by the RNA each year since 2010, these are the only workshops in Australia to provide educators with free cheesemaking training alongside a student cheesemaking competition.

Mr Smith said the popular workshops, now in their 16th year, equipped educators with practical skills and engaging ideas to bring agricultural science and food technology to life for their students.

"By giving teachers real-world, tactile experiences, we're helping them translate complex agricultural and food production concepts into meaningful classroom learning," Mr Smith said.

"It's all about building confidence and inspiring curiosity both for teachers and students...and making some delicious cheese!"

WHAT: RNA Teachers' Cheese Making Workshops

WHEN: 8am to 3pm, Monday 11 - Friday 15 May (Monday-Wednesday: camembert, Thursday-Friday: blue cheese)

WHERE: Council Stand (CH Meagher Room) - Brisbane Showgrounds

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS: Beenleigh State High School, Brisbane Boys College, Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane State High School, Greenbank Hive, Harristown State High School, Helensvale State High School, Ipswich Girls Grammar School, Kimberley College, Omni Academies of Learning, Park Ridge State High School, Pine Rivers State High School, St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, St Benedict's College Mango Hill, St Hilda's School, Southport, The Gap State High School, Tullawong State High School, Unity College, Warrigal Road State School.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Veronica Carew
General Manager Communications
Ph: 07 3253 3930/ 0408 323 631
Email: vcarew@rna.org.au

Nicole Clifton
Media and Communications Advisor
Ph: 07 3253 3932/ 0417 451 775
Email: nclifton@rna.org.au