

May 12, 2025

A 'brie-lliant' learning experience for teachers at cheese making workshops

Queensland teachers are getting a taste of cheese making this week at the RNA Teachers' Cheese Making Workshops at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

Starting today, 37 teachers from 20 schools across Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, 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 blend theory with hands-on experience, equipping teachers with the skills and confidence to help their students create top-quality cheeses for the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Student Made Cheese Competition in September.

Hosted annually by the RNA since 2010, these workshops are the only ones in Australia that offer educators free cheese making training combined with student cheese making competitions.

Mr Smith said the popular workshops were now in their 15th year and continued to receive strong support from local schools.

"The number of entries in the student cheese competition has steadily increased, with an estimated 6,000 students participating in the program since its inception," he said.

"The competition is a real eye-opener for students - over a six-week period they experience the fascinating transformation of milk into cheese, gaining hands-on experience and valuable insights into the production process."

WHAT: RNA Teachers' Cheese Making Workshops

WHEN: 8am to 3pm, Monday 12 -Thursday 15 May (Monday-Wednesday: camembert, Thursday: blue cheese)

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

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS: Brisbane Boys College, Brisbane Youth Education & Training Centre, Burpengary State Secondary College, Caboolture SHS, Harristown State High School, Helensvale State High School, Kawana Waters State College, Mount Gravatt State High School, Murrumba State Secondary College, Nambour State College, Pine Rivers State High School, Queensland Academy of Creative Industries, St Aidan's Anglican Girls School, St Benedict's College, St Peters Lutheran College, The Lakes College, Toowoomba Grammar School, Tullawong State High School, Unity College, and West Moreton Anglican College.

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