

Thursday 28 July, 2005

## FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD AT EKKA 2005

Dagwood dogs, fairy floss and candy apples aren't the only foods you'll find at EKKA. Look a little further and you'll probably find the best steak sandwich you have ever tasted!

EKKA 2005 is set to tantalise the taste buds with enough fresh mouthwatering food and produce grown right here in Queensland, to tempt any gastronomical guru - from juicy corn and sweet strawberries to succulent steaks and mature cheeses.

RNA Chief Executive Jonathan Tunny said the people of Queensland would have more variety of fresh food to enjoy at this year's EKKA than ever before.

"For 10 days the RNA Showgrounds will show off how good our produce and our growers really are. Visitors can delight in all things Queensland at the Taste of Queensland Stage in the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion, enjoy a juicy steak at the AgForce MEATing Centre or a steak sandwich right outside the Cattle Pavilion, or sample cuisine from across the globe at the International Village.

"From traditional strawberry sundaes to fresh fruit and homemade chocolates there is just so much food to enjoy at this year's Show," he said.

Hosted by culinary experts Peter Howard and Alison Alexander, the **Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion Tastes of Queensland Stage** will showcase Queensland produce with a daily program of food and wine tasting sessions in addition to an impressive line-up of local high-profile chefs, farmers/producers and winemakers.

Visitors to the pavilion can loose themselves with some of Queensland's best wine while indulging in a range of gourmet goodies, such as;

- a range of Mammino gourmet ice-creams and macadamia products
- honey offerings from Superbee and Capilano
- a taste of the orient with fresh Sushi and soups
- a range of fine cheeses from Kenilworth Country Foods, Kingaroy Cheese and Malaney Cheese
- a piece of creamy fudge from Jungland or a lollipop from the Lollipop Lady, or
- a natural alternative from Natures Nibbles, Morish Nuts Queensland or Ajitas Vege Chips.

From tastes of Queensland to cuisine from across the globe, visit the EKKA **International Food Village** for tastes from 11 different cultures along with popular cultural dance and music.

Visitors to the village will have the chance to win a holiday to Fiji and other great prizes are also up for grabs in the daily *eating competitions*. With noodles and Poffertjes, nacho's and curry, Hungarian bread and German sausage, corn pie and prawn eating competitions, get to the International Village and pig out for great prizes.

The **Commercial Swimming Club** café located in the railway tunnel under the Main Arena Grandstand is an EKKA institution. Serving homemade, simple fair, this is where you'll find huge servings of bacon and eggs, fresh ham sandwiches and a great cup of tea. Staffed by volunteers, all proceeds go to supporting our local Olympic swimmers. Get to the stand on Saturday August 13 and you may be lucky enough to be served by Olympic swimming champions Libby Lenton and Liesel Jones!

After viewing the finest prize winning beef cattle in the country, visitors to EKKA can then enjoy the taste of Australia's finest beef with a big juicy steak from one of the many outlets at this year's show.

The **AgForce MEATing Centre** steakhouse restaurant will be on of the best places to enjoy a steak, open daily for lunch from 11am - 3pm and dinner from 5.30pm - 8.30pm. The Gourmet Café will be open daily from 9.30am - 4.30pm serving EKKA-goers a delicious and healthy range of beef, lamb and grain dishes.

The **Brisbane Markets Agricultural Hall** will again showcase the best agricultural exhibits, featuring Queensland's freshest and finest produce. The five main exhibits in the hall this year are the Commonwealth District Exhibits, Fruit Industry Exhibits, Queensland Youth Fruit and Vegetable Exhibits, Youth District Exhibits and Apiculture.

Queensland's finest growers will compete for thousands of dollars in prize money to come up with the finest varieties presented for judging in the **Brisbane Markets Agricultural Hall**. Two of the most popular competitions at the Ekka will again be the Strawberry Competition, to uncover Queensland's finest strawberry, and the Australian Banana Championship, a chance for fruit lovers to view first grade marketable fruit in many varieties including Lady Finger, Gold Finger and Cavendish. A special prize for the 'Heaviest Bunch' will be up for grabs if the exhibitor can beat the current record of 76kg.

On Saturday 20 August visitors to the hall can purchase the cheapest fresh produce in the city at the end of EKKA Produce sale commencing at 1.45pm. The hall is open from 9am - 7pm on most days during EKKA 2005.

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