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Jim crowned Ekka's new pump-king!

Stanthorpe's Jim Baxter and his 130kg pumpkin have smashed the competition to win the the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) iconic Giant Pumpkin Competition presented by Pillow Talk at the Brisbane Showgrounds today.

Jim's giant gourd saw him claim the coveted Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show title, taking home a total of \$1,450 in prize money.

"It took me about four months to grow, I used plenty of water and manure and no synthetic fertilisers," Mr Baxter said.

Jim first tried the art of giant pumpkin growing 15 years ago when he entered his local Stanthorpe show, before entering the Ekka competition in 2015.

"It's my first win at the Ekka and I'm delighted," he said.

"I grew six vines in total, each vine had one pumpkin on it, the key is to keep the water up to them each day."

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said this was the first Grand Champion for the 2022 Royal Queensland Show to be crowned as the countdown begins.

"In 175 days, we will celebrate the historic return of the Ekka," Mr Christou said.

"After two years without a show, we look forward to finally bringing back this beloved Queensland institution.

"It has been a very challenging two years and we look forward to reuniting the country and city.

"The support we have received has been overwhelming – there is wonderful community sentiment for the Ekka."

Mr Christou said planning for the Ekka's return started last September.

"We have already launched 15 Ekka competitions and the entries are pouring in," he said.

"We have 38 competitions set to launch between now and July."

The giant pumpkin competition is one of the Ekka's most iconic agricultural competitions, dating back to the first show in 1876.

Some of the giant pumpkins will return to the Brisbane Showgrounds in August, to be displayed in the Agricultural Hall presented by Seqwater at the Ekka.

Green thumbs wanting to try their luck next year, can pick up their free Atlantic Giant Pumpkin seeds at the Show.

2022 GIANT PUMPKIN COMPETITION RESULTS:

Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show – Jim Baxter - 130kg

Class 1 – Open:

1st Jim Baxter – 130kg

2nd Jim Baxter - 81kg

3rd Jen Finch – 53kg

Class 2 – Youth & Schools

1st - Downlands College – 46.5kg

2nd - Tom Finch – 23kg

3rd - Jimmy Finch – 22kg

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