

# ZEBRA FINCHES PROJECT SCHEDULE



# COMPETITION OVERVIEW

We invite you to apply to participate in our exciting new School Zebra Finch Breeding Competition Project.

This unique opportunity connects classroom learning with a hands-on experience in breeding finches, while students explore the wonders of biology, science, mathematics and design technology. The competition encourages teamwork and engages in critical thinking and creative problem-solving.

We invite schools to participate in a unique opportunity to create a cross-curricular project. Students, with the guidance of the Ekka's Poultry Committee, will explore the life cycles, habitats and care of finches while observing their breeding process.

With a strong focus on fostering a curiosity for nature, students will learn about animal care, create habitats, track breeding patterns and develop an understanding of ecosystems and the role of species conservation.



**THE EXHIBITION ZEBRA  
FINCH SOCIETY OF  
QUEENSLAND**

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

### *Competition Enquiries*

[entries@royalqueenslandshow.com.au](mailto:entries@royalqueenslandshow.com.au)

### *Education Content Enquiries*

[education@ekka.com.au](mailto:education@ekka.com.au)

### *Ekka School & Group Bookings Enquiries*

[groupbookings@ekka.com.au](mailto:groupbookings@ekka.com.au)

## ABOUT

This competition allows students to gain an insight into the cycle of life by raising their own Zebra Finches. The Ekka has partnered with The Exhibition Zebra Finch Society of Queensland to provide schools with two (2) breeding Zebra Finches.

Schools care for and monitor the adult Zebra Finches over a 26 week period through day to day care and optimising their living conditions with the intention of successfully breeding offspring. The competition involves creating a project based on observations and data collected.

The project should effectively showcase the school's educational achievements and learnings from breeding and raising Zebra Finches.

Schools submit their enclosures, birds and projects to the Ekka.

## KEY DATES

EOI's Close: 21 February 2025

Successful Schools Contacted: Monday 24 March 2025

Zebra Finches Delivery to Schools: Tuesday 22 April - Thursday 24 April (8.00am-3.00pm)

Royal Queensland Show (Ekka): Saturday 9 - Sunday 17 August

Penning Day & Project Submission: Tuesday 12 August 2025 (6.00am - 8.00am)

Judging Day - Project & Finch: Saturday 17 August, 2025 from 12pm

## ENTRY PROCESS

Due to limited places, entry into the 2025 Raising Zebra Finches Competition will be done through an Expression of Interest process. Interested schools must submit their expression of interest through our [Online Exhibitor Portal](#) by Friday 21 February 2025.



# JUDGING CRITERIA

## 1. FINCHES COMPETITION JUDGING

Schools will bring Zebra Finches (breeding pair and offspring) to compete at the 2025 Ekka. The judges will look for:

- Size and Shape: Well-proportioned body with good muscle tone, around 10-12 cm in length
- Feather Quality: Smooth, clean feathers with vibrant colors and clear, symmetrical markings
- Health and Vitality: Bright eyes, clean beak and feet, and no signs of illness (e.g., runny eyes, mites)
- Stance and Posture: Confident stance with good posture and lively behaviour
- Conformation to Breed Standards: Proper head, beak, tail, legs, and overall body structure

## 2. PROJECT

The project may be completed in a book, poster, PowerPoint or similar format, with preference given to those who go beyond simple fact recording to create a comprehensive project portfolio. The project should creatively showcase the school's educational achievements and learning outcomes.

- The project includes photos and/or diagrams of the finches and their enclosure setup
- Research into finch care will be presented by the student with content such as industry information, breed characteristics, studies on nutrition, health and welfare, with a focus on how this knowledge has been applied in caring for the birds
- Scientific data and other related information is presented clearly and concisely
- Students must also track the development of their Zebra Finches from the time they are received by the school through to the Ekka. This includes recording data on feed, health issues, and other notable observations. The records must be submitted alongside the project



## PRIZES

- Best Project - First: Ribbon & Trophy, Second: Ribbon, Third: Ribbon  
Supported By The Exhibition Zebra Finch Society of Queensland
- Best Zebra Finch - First: Ribbon & Trophy, Second: Ribbon, Third: Ribbon  
Supported By The Exhibition Zebra Finch Society of Queensland
- 2025 Overall Raising Zebra Finch Champion - Champion Rosette, Trophy and Rosette  
Supported By The Exhibition Zebra Finch Society of Queensland

## ANIMALS IN EDUCATION

When keeping finches at your school, you have a duty of care to the animals. Schools are required to be familiar with and satisfy the requirements of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld) and the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (Cwlth) 8th Edition 2013. [The Queensland Schools Animal Ethics Committee](#) (QSAEC) assists schools with meeting their legal obligations under these codes. A copy of your QSAEC approval must be provided to the RNA before picking up your finches for the competition. If you have any questions about your QSAEC approval, please contact the Animal Ethics Officer on 07 3513 5916 or email [animal.ethics@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:animal.ethics@qed.qld.gov.au).



# Ekka

## EDUCATION

### INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) is recognised for its excellence, over many years, by winning numerous awards at the International Fairs & Expos (IAFE) Awards.

IAFE has more than 1,000 members representing agricultural fairs from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

These awards represent the continued dedication the Ekka plays in bridging the country city divide, and educating the next generation on the essential role farming and agriculture plays in their everyday lives.

