

# Special 10th Anniversary Edition

# The **EKKA** Courier

The newspaper of the Brisbane Show Camp.



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## CONTINUING THE TRADITION

A group of twenty primary students from Queensland State Schools will continue the tradition and produce this year's 10th edition of *The EKKA Courier* - the newspaper of the Brisbane Show Camp.

The Courier was first published by the Show Camp in 1992 when Education Queensland shifted the focus of the camp to utilize the unique experiences of living-in at the Ekka for ten days as the focus for a major literacy project.

"The *Courier* is the product of a lot of hard work by a group of very talented students," the camp Manager, Mr Keith Enchelmaier, said.

"They have classroom sessions learning and developing skills needed so that they can research, write and edit their stories, and meet very short time lines. Three editions of the *Courier* need to be completed during the Show." The *Courier* is produced using computers and digital cameras and published in both printed and electronic form on the internet at:

[www.schools.ash.org.au/urbanec](http://www.schools.ash.org.au/urbanec)



The editorial team (the students) is selected from State Schools from throughout Queensland to attend the Show Camp.

The camp has been part of the EKKA tradition for 73 years. Show Camp is conducted for Education Queensland by the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre.



**1996: The EKKA is off and running again with a new image and a new name. The name Royal Queensland Show has replaced the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association's (R.N.A) Exhibition. The Show president said, "We want to promote The EKKA as the Queensland Show, not just the Brisbane Show." By Fallyn Doblo and David Blackley .**

## 1995: SHOWBAG SENSATIONS

By Rebecca Chamberlain, Kerry Palmer and Vicki Upham.

The Brisbane Ekka has many great things including rides, displays, sideshow alley and food, but the most popular attraction of all is the show bags. The pavillion has MILLIONS of showbags that everyone is buying like crazy. Just try walking through there and you'll get flattened by the many thousands of people walking through every day.

Many showbag stalls sell over 700 showbags per day at costs ranging from \$2 to \$15. The cheapest showbags mainly contain lollies and chocolates. The dearer showbags contain confectionery, cans of drink, chips and small toys.

Over 20 years ago, showbags (sample bags) used to be free.

They contained quality items including food and other samples of the products produced by the various companies - usually packaged especially for the bag. Prices of showbags rose as the years went by.

Many older people say that they used to be good value. The show bag stalls provide casual employment for many during the show. No experience is needed to work on a showbag stall as some people have only been working since the beginning of this year's Exhibition.

Many parents say that showbags are a waste of money, but ask the kids to see what they think!

The Brisbane Show Camp is Proudly Sponsored by  
Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association,  
and Education Queensland



**Queensland Government**  
Education Queensland



### 1994: HAPPY BIRTHDAY MATILDA!

By Sarah Slack, Lisa Carmichael and Rebecca Fowler.

The 'Jolly Swagman', a life-like bronze statue which cost over \$12 000, was created by two local sculptors, John Vink and David Joffe, for the exhibition grounds. Situated in Stockmen's Rest, the statue was unveiled on August 9 to commemorate the first public recital of 'Waltzing Matilda'; however the commemoration was slightly early.

The statue was officially unveiled by the Queensland Premier Mr. Wayne Goss two days before the EKKA opened. The swagman is sitting on a log with his swag perched next to him (as pictured). The guest of honour at the 1895 recital, Sir Hugh Nelson, at that time was premier of Queensland and President

of the National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Q.L.D. (NAIA) - now the RNA. The recital was held in Winton, where Waltzing Matilda was considered as the unofficial national song. Stockmen's Rest is one of the quieter places of the 'EKKA' where people of all ages can relax.



### 1993: THE SILVER SPIKE RAILWAY RACE

by Michael Adams

The art of tracklaying in Queensland has been forged over more than a century since the first line was commissioned between Ipswich and Grandchester on July, 31, 1865. Using teamwork, skill and strength, the tracklaying gangs pioneered new rail routes which were the lifeline for new communities and opened up new rural and mining industries.

Now in 1993, the closest thing to hand laid track is the Silver Spike rail race which is held at the R.N.A.

Four teams (Western Queensland, North Queensland, Central Queensland and South Queensland) battled to win the Silver Spike trophy. They had to lay 13 metres of track in the shortest possible time without breaking any rules.

Each team consists of six men including a captain whose responsibility it is to oversee the proceedings and make decisions on what must be done next.

The teams must lay 13 metres of track using rails, sleepers and spikes and fishplate the tracks to a buffer stop. A four-wheeled pumpcar must be able to run along the track when it is completed.

When rules are broken, the teams are liable to time penalties which may range from twenty seconds to five minutes or more. The greater the seriousness of the infringement the greater time penalty is imposed.



### 1992: 19 out of 20 for Moreton



This year the Moreton District has entered a terrific display in the agricultural pavilion. "Farmers Feed the World" is the slogan and it is well chosen considering that the district covers west to the Toowoomba ranges and east to the Moreton islands. The region is mainly farmed for fruit, vegetables and sugar cane.

The Moreton district is hoping to win the grand-final with this stand as it is the best they

have ever entered. Besides, with a record of 19 wins over the last 20 years how could they lose?

This display has taken the committee of 16 one week to construct. They used such material as seeds, fruits, vegetables, sugar cane and wheat heads.

At the end of the show all the perishables will be sold and the grains and wheat stored. For this committee that has been going for 23 years, it is just another competition.

Ben Armstrong

The stories in this **Special 10th Anniversary EKKA Courier** have been reprinted from the first five years' publications. Additional reprint stories will be included in the three newspapers to be published during the 2001 Show Camp.