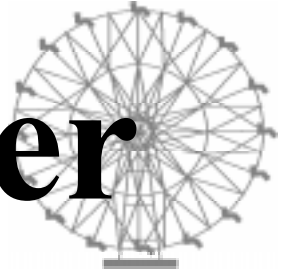


The

EKKA Courier

The newspaper of the Brisbane Show Camp



NUMBER 10-2

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2001

A THUNDEROUS OPENING

by David Reushle, Megan FitzGerald, Bonnie Hope

The 2001 EKKA opened on Friday night with a thunderous presentation of *The Man From Snowy River* followed by a wonderful concert from John Williamson with a range of songs for all ages.

Before the entertainment began the official opening was performed by the Chief Justice of Queensland, Mr de Jersey. He was accompanied by an armed forces' Guard of Honour and a group of Queensland mounted police.

Whilst John Williamson was singing, a giant crowd of people swarmed into the main arena to watch, listen and join in with the entertainment around the big camp fire.

The crowds were huge and when people went down to watch John Williamson, it was



like a big swarm of talking bumble bees.

After John had finished entertaining the crowd, most retreated to their seats to watch the grand finale.

The night ended with wonderful fireworks and a fourteen year old girl sang with an amazing voice to finish the opening ring program with the National Anthem and *We Are Australian*.

FIRE ANTS AT THE EKKA!

by John Gardner, Johnathon Solli and Alexander Wenzel

Fire ants, the pesky pests from South America, are proving to be very popular displays in the Queensland Government Pavilion.

Fire ants have become a recent problem in the Brisbane area.

They range from 2-6 mm in size and have a fiery sting that leaves the bite site in red swollen blisters.

"The Fire Ant Display is attracting approximately 60 people per minute," Evan Harris, one of the four staff said.

Evan, Leanne and Ross said that they think people are definitely learning from seeing the displays.

The fire ants are part of the Department of Primary Industries display, so come down and look at the great displays and information you can discover about these puny pests.

The Man Rides Again!

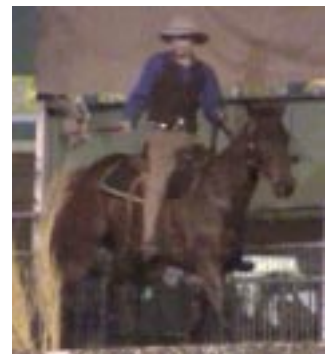
by Amy Bergen and Steven McCormack

The re-enactment of Banjo Paterson's spine tingling poem *The Man from Snowy River* was performed in the main arena on Friday night at the opening ceremony and reached the crowd's expectations.

The star, Jason Sharpe, acted spectacularly in front of the crowd. There was huge anticipation before the act, for the word had passed around that this was to be the first performance in Queensland.

The act started with the colt jumping over a high fence to run wild with the brumbies. The performance went on when the stockmen spotted the wild horses and ran around the main arena fiercely trying to round them up. They then rode their horses fearlessly up the hill.

The highlight of the show was when Jason saved the day by riding at break-neck speed down the artificial hill. The crowd was on its feet



astounded by the visually first class ride by the The Man from Snowy River.

Jason is from a New South Wales dairy farming family in the Camden district and has ridden horses all his life.

The executive producer, Mr Andrew Cooper, said, "We wanted real stockmen who had done this sort of thing in the course of their working lives." Therefore he did not hire any actors, but people whose experience with horses and the bush were a natural at this task.

The Man from Snowy River will be performed nightly at the main arena at 8pm.

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

A GREAT FAMILY TRADITION

The "EKKA Courier" is a publication of the Brisbane Show Camp.

The camp is conducted by Education Queensland for students from years six and seven in Queensland State Schools.

Camp management is a program of the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre

Fabulous Freebies

by Boni Moore, Joseph Marstella, Heidi Enchelmaier, Lynda Douglas and Todd Jackson

At this year's EKKA there are heaps of free things to do. Why spend all day at Sideshow Alley?

Why not go to visit the hairy-nosed wombat in the Government Pavilion or the free honey tasting in the Fruit Pavilion?

It doesn't cost anything and you can learn a lot about the wombat and you can also watch the bees making the honey.

Here are some more interesting freebies from around the pavilions. At the Queensland Health stall there are free apples, at the Residential Tenancies Authority you can get free

lollipops and you can obtain free information bags with a ruler from Natural Resources and Mines.

You can get Triple M calendars and information on poultry in the Poultry Pavilion. In the Pig Pavilion there are free balloons and you can pat piglets and sows.

Milk and cheese samples, which are perfect for a hot EKKA day, are available at the Dairy Pavilion.

Favourites of Show Goers

by Megan Stein, Teneille Hamwood.

During the first few days of the EKKA, Show Camp Reporters have been out asking show goers this question:

"What is your favourite item at the EKKA?"

Some of their answers were:

"The horses are my favourite item at the show."

"Definitely the horses."

"Umm, the rides I guess".

"I just got here but mainly the chooks."

"The ring events are my favorite."

"The horses".

"Definitely show bags and rides."

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey.

FASCINATING FACTS

by Amy Perkin, Jana Kister, Stuart Hall and Ian McKerrell

The EKKA is the biggest single event in Queensland.

Here are just a few fascinating facts to drive that point home.

- 4,375 horses;
- 1,157 stud beef cattle;
- 708 dairy cattle;
- 103 stud angora goats;
- 155 dairy goats;
- 82 alpacas;
- 4041 dogs;
- 2691 poultry & caged birds visit the show;
- 1931 paintings & photography entries;
- 1251 fine art entries;
- 679 cookery entries;
- 1519 woodchop entries;
- 55,500 litres of milk will be produced;
- 25,000 eggs will be laid at the show.

Watch out for more fascinating facts in future editions of the *EKKA Courier*.



EKKA ENTERTAINERS

by Georgina Stevenson

The street entertainers are one of the most exciting features of the Brisbane Exhibition.

Performers included in this years show are mimes, clowns and people on stilts. Artie, Harold and Nicky are members of a band that is a musically talented group. In this band instruments used are drums and a small trumpet.

The clothes worn by the band are very colourful.

"I like performing so I can share what I have got to make the children better adults when they grow up", said Jamaican-born, Harold.

"I perform because I enjoy making people happy", said Artie, who was born in Sydney.

Overall, the street performers are very popular with the general show-going public.



SCARECROWS

by Johnathon Solli

The Variety Club of Queensland RNA Celebrity Scare Crow Competition is now being held at the Royal Brisbane Show.

The entrants range from five to eighteen years old. Most of the entries are from young people. The variety of materials range from clothes, straw and paper bags to paper mache and different ornaments.

There are some impressions of people including Henry Parkes. The competition has been running for around three years.