

23 June, 2017

## Sandgate student cheese champions conquer again

Proving the Bay breeds champion cheese makers, Sandgate District State High School has continued its dominance in the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) Student Made Cheese Competition by taking out the white cheese title at the Brisbane Showgrounds today.

The school won the Mould Ripened Cheese White category with its entry titled 'Li'l Baby Cheeses,' but their entries have made anything but a 'li'l' impression.

Sandgate has placed in the competition for the past seven years in a row, taking home two thirds, two seconds and three firsts.

Chief Judge Russell Smith said their winning camembert this year was superbly made.

"It had a beautiful creamy texture with some gorgeous earthy flavours," he said.

"It's quite phenomenal that Sandgate has consistently been in the top cheeses for seven years now and it's a testament to the school's dedication to the program."

Sandgate also took out second place in the Mould Ripened Cheese Blue category, but it was Mt Gravatt High School who took top honours for their blue cheese creatively titled 'Smurf Village.'

"This was a mild blue but with beautifully balanced flavour, which is so important in a blue cheese. The texture was perfect for the style of cheese," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith, along with award-winning cheese maker Ueli Berger from King Island Dairy, tasted their way through 183 cheeses from 30 Queensland schools this week.

Mr Berger said they were impressed with the overall quality of the cheeses, with the top products commercial grade in texture and flavour.

"The students did a great job – they followed the recipe well and the hygiene standard was very high," he said.

"The teachers have also done a brilliant job in taking what they learnt at the eighth RNA Teachers' Cheese Making Workshops in February and translating it into the classroom."

Many of the students will return to the Brisbane Showgrounds in August for Ekka – Queensland’s largest classroom – which is now just 49 days away.

## 2017 WINNERS:

### **Class 1 – Mould Ripened Cheese – White**

Winner – Sandgate District State High School for Li'l Baby Cheeses

2nd Place – Morayfield State High School for Camembert

3rd Place – Ferny Grove State High School for Camembert cheese

### **Class 2 – Mould Ripened Cheese – Blue**

Winner – Mt Gravatt High School for Smurf Village

2nd Place – Sandgate District State High School for Blue Barry

3rd Place – St Paul’s School for Feeling Blue

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