

May 8, 2023

Teachers get a lesson in cheese making

Queensland teachers will become the students over the next four days, as they take part in the hands-on RNA Teachers' Cheese Making Workshops at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

From today, 36 teachers from 16 schools will be taught how to make camembert and blue cheese by renowned dairy expert and cheesemaker Russell Smith.

Twelve of the schools participating in the workshops are Brisbane and Sunshine Coast based, while three are from the Darling Downs, with one even travelling all the way from Gumlu in north Queensland.

The free workshops include a mix of theory and practical work, giving teachers the skills to confidently assist their students in entering the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Student Made Cheese Competition in September.

The RNA runs the annual workshops as part of its education charter, with hundreds of teachers taking part in the unique professional development activity over the past 13 years.

Nowhere else in Australia offers educators free cheese making workshops combined with student cheese making competitions.

Workshop teacher Russell Smith said both the students and teachers love the competition and seeing the remarkable transformation from milk to cheese.

"I think it's a real revelation to the participants that you start off with milk that you're used to drinking and end up with cheese that you can eat," he said.

"There's a huge number of jobs in the dairy industry with science applications, so it opens up a lot of career pathways for either going into the manufacturing of dairy products or studying the science behind them."

WHAT: RNA Teachers' Cheese Making Workshops

WHEN: 8am to 3pm, Monday 8 - Thursday 11 May

WHERE: Ernest Baynes Dining Room - Brisbane Showgrounds

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS: Beenleigh SHS, Beerwah State High School, Cooyar SS, Gumlu State School, Harristown State High School, Holland Park State Primary School, Kawana Waters State College, Morayfield SHS, Mt Gravatt State High School, Nambour State College, Pimpama State Secondary College, Pine Rivers State High, Prince of Peace Lutheran College, San Sisto College, The Gap SHS, Toowoomba Grammar School.

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ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

MEDIA RELEASE

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