

Honey Court at Brisbane Ekka 2013

For the Qld Beekeepers Association the 2013 Ekka began on Saturday 3 August when entries in the Apiculture Competition were judged. These included entries of honey, wax and mead and were judged this year by Bill Winner and Laurie Dewar. The quality was of a very high standard but were fewer in numbers than last year.

JUDGING of the **APICULTURE COMPETITION** on Saturday 3 August 2013



Congratulations to Jan Flynn of Toowoomba, for being the most successful exhibitor. For this she won the Len Rudd Memorial Trophy, donated by the Qld Beekeepers Association.

Why not enter your products into the 2014

Competition? Beekeepers take such pride and care in their work and products, so why not share these in the competition and have them seen and enjoyed by the thousands that come to the Ekka.

The 2013 Schedule can be seen

at <http://www.royalqueenslandshow.com.au/competition-categories/agricultural-hall/> (scroll down to Apiculture) and the 2013 Competition Results can

be seen at <http://www.royalqueenslandshow.com.au/results/> (go to MARSH PTY LTD Apiculture)



The Ekka began on Thursday 8th August and ran for 10 days, closing on Saturday 17th. The Honey Court was located in the Agricultural Pavilion on the bottom floor of the new RNA Convention Centre. This year's very popular activities included:



Free honey tasting

1. Free honey tasting was available all day, every day and was always popular. The line-up was nearly always long with people wishing to taste this year's special Qld honey varieties for the Ekka. These were **yapunyah**, collected from the far west of Qld in the channel country, **tea tree** gathered from around the Sunshine coast and **macadamia** from the Bundaberg area.



Sales of products

2. Products for sale - there were many and varied, including **honey** (liquid and creamed), **honey comb** from the hive, various **products made from beeswax** (including cosmetic creams, furniture polish, soaps, shampoo and candles), a sparkling **honey drink** (non-alcoholic) and the very popular **Show Bags** of honey, honey products and honey-coated popcorn.



Honey Mead sales

3. Honey Mead was very popular again this year with many varieties for sale, most of these being made in Qld. Honey Mead has a very long and most interesting history and is regarded as man's first and oldest alcoholic drink.



Live bee displays

4. Live bee displays were given each day at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Each display always attracted a large crowd of people interested in seeing and hearing about the bees, how they live and work together as a hive and their important role in basic food production.

THANK YOU - The Qld Beekeepers Association was privileged and delighted to have so many **volunteer beekeepers** assist at the Honey Court. Your commitment, enthusiasm and interest in sharing your joy and knowledge of bees and beekeeping to others was greatly appreciated. **Thank you to all** with a special **thank you to Adrian** and his crew who organized and co-ordinated another successful Honey Court.

2014 DATES - The RNA have announced that the 2014 Ekka will remain a 10 day event but with a change of dates, to run over two full weekends. 2014 dates are: Friday 8th August to Sunday 17th August.