



# Fact Sheet

March 11, 2013

## RNA Dairy Australia Teachers' Cheesemaking Workshops

- The RNA is conducting five one day cheesemaking workshops for Queensland teachers – three camembert workshops and two blue cheese workshops.
- For the first time the RNA Dairy Australia Teachers Cheesemaking Workshops will hold sessions in Cairns and Townsville following increased interest from around Queensland.
- Now in their fourth year the free workshops provide teachers with cheesemaking skills and experience which are passed onto students in the classroom.
- Internationally renowned cheese expert and Chief Judge of the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show's Cheese and Dairy Produce Show Russell Smith is the workshop facilitator.
- These unique workshops form part of the RNA's Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show within the Student Made Cheese Competition, which last year received a record 171 entries – a 56 per cent increase on 2011.
- It is the only program of its kind in Australia and offers educators free cheesemaking workshops combined with a student cheesemaking competition.
- 40 teachers from 22 different schools are attending from as far as Dalby, Hervey Bay and Monto.
- Furthest school attending this year is Monto State High School – 475km or six hours drive from the RNA Showgrounds.
- The RNA was the proud recipient of Education Queensland's Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in Science and Science Education—Science Education Partnership Award for 2012.
- In 2011, this RNA initiative also won an international award at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions contest which is designed to recognise and reward excellence for members throughout the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia.
- Participating schools include public, private, primary, secondary, metropolitan and regional.
- Although some participants are general classroom teachers, others work across areas including food/home economics and science/biology/chemistry.
- This program is a unique, hands-on curriculum activity for students in Australia.
- These workshops will assist primary students at a basic level – discovering how cheese is made, where it comes from and about the dairy industry – while in secondary students focus on the scientific and biological aspects of the process.
- The Brisbane camembert workshops will be held from today until Wednesday 13 March. The Brisbane blue cheese workshops will be held on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 March 2013.
- Each workshop runs for approximately six hours with an hour of cheesemaking theory which relates to the different styles of cheeses being made (camembert and blue). This includes information on the starter cultures used and the chemistry of the processes involved and anticipated outcomes. This is followed by a practical, hands-on cheesemaking session on the maturation process that takes place over the following six to seven weeks.



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BRISBANE AUSTRALIA

RNA Showgrounds  
600 Gregory Terrace  
Bowen Hills Brisbane  
Queensland Australia  
Locked Bag 1010  
Albion Queensland  
Australia 4010

T +61 7 3852 1831  
F +61 3257 1428  
enquiries@rna.org.au  
www.rna.org.au  
ABN 41 417 513 726



<b>2013 RNA DAIRY AUSTRALIA TEACHERS' CHEESEMAKING WORKSHOPS DATES</b>	
Brisbane – Camembert Cheese Workshops	Monday 11 March – Wednesday 13 March
Brisbane – Blue Cheese Workshops	Thursday 14 March – Friday 15 March
Student Made Cheese Competition judging (for Brisbane workshops attendees)	Friday 31 May
Cairns – Cheesemaking Workshops	Monday 3 June – Tuesday 4 June
Townsville – Cheesemaking Workshops – <b>PLACES STILL AVAILABLE</b>	Thursday 6 June - Friday 7 June
Cairns and Townsville student cheese judging	Wednesday 28 – Thursday 29 August

**Media Enquiries:**

Katie Johnston  
RNA Media and Communications Officer  
Tel: 07 3253 3931  
Email: [kjohnston@rna.org.au](mailto:kjohnston@rna.org.au)



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T +61 7 3852 1831  
F +61 3257 1428  
[enquiries@rna.org.au](mailto:enquiries@rna.org.au)  
[www.rna.org.au](http://www.rna.org.au)  
ABN 41 417 513 726