



Invites you to hear

Catrin Saunders

Speak about “The Royal National Association” Ekka

**This year celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the
Royal National Association**

Who can remember the excitement as August rolled around and, the “Ekka” was once again upon us. The Grand Parade, fireworks, trotting, wood chopping, the sheepdog trials, sample bags, and of course, sideshow alley.

Catrin Saunders is Head of Ekka, Marketing, Sponsorship & Sales at the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA). She has been with the RNA for more than seven years, and 2026 will be her fifth Ekka to deliver. With a career in hospitality and event delivery, Catrin is passionate about creating outstanding guest experiences and working closely with teams and partners to bring major events to life. Having grown up attending Royal Shows in Adelaide and Sydney, and living in Queensland for the last over 20 years, she is proud to be part of the team delivering Ekka’s 150th Anniversary Show.

In 2026, the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) celebrates its 150th anniversary – marking a major milestone for Queensland’s most loved annual event.

For nearly 150 years, the Ekka has brought generations of Queenslanders together, welcoming more than 35 million visitors since 1876 to celebrate community, agriculture and everything that makes social and cultural heritage.

Come along and listen to Catrin speak about how the Ekka became part of our lives.

Where? **Kingsbury Room**
Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre
347 Old Cleveland Rd. Coorparoo

When? **6 June 2026** at 2.00 pm (Queensland Day)

Non-members are welcome, but why not join our group? A small donation to offset hiring charges would be appreciated.

Bring a Plate to share at afternoon tea.

Contact President Ron Baker OAM 0412 944 095 Vice President Richard Jeffreys OAM 0411 511 369

Mail: Hon. Secretary. P.O. Box 1555 Carindale Q. 4152

Coorparoo & Heritage Group Districts

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

The Royal National Association Exhibition, "Ekka" to us, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. With this in mind we invited the RNA to provide someone to speak at our June meeting. Originally, we had considered a speaker for August but real at August is a very busy time for the RNA. Most of us will have fond memories of the Ekka. When we arrived at the grounds Where was the first place we would head to? Was it Side Show Alley, the sample bag pavilion, the animal pavilion or many of the other attractions that we're on offer? We had a large range of food on offer such as Pluto Pups, Tasmanian potato chips, Fairy Floss and Strawberry Sundaes just to mention a few. The grand Parade showing off the Best of our animals, and of course the fireworks at night. Which colour rocket would go the highest?

Our June speaker will be Caitlin Saunders, who will speak about 150 years of the Royal National Association.

At our April meeting we were addressed by Chris Seymour who spoke about the life of Lord Kitchener. Kitchener visited Queensland in 1910 And inspected the troops as they marched past his dais at Wynnum These trips were based at the nearby Fort Lytton. Chris gave a very informed talk about Lord Kitchener and his progress through the ranks.

Our speaker programme for the remainder of the year has been finalised.

August **Dr. Ian Patterson:** History of St. Helena Island

October **Claire Moore:** Topic to be determined

December **Robert Allen:** Christmas decorations in department stores shop windows.

Your committee always appreciates comments and recommendations for possible guest speakers. If you provide us with general information we will follow it up and hopefully obtain another guest speaker. We would also appreciate information about the district to share with members via this newsletter.

This year The Mount Bruce Boy Scouting Group is celebrating its 90th birthday. What a great achievement, especially when other Boy Scout groups in the area have disappeared. We are attempting to get someone from the Mount Bruce group to speak to us early next year about scouting and the groups once in our district.

This year the Coorparoo State School is 150 years old. Major celebrations of this event will occur in October with a full day of events planned for Saturday 17 October 2026. Any past pupil or teacher should contact the school if they would like to be included in the celebrations. The school is seeking historical memorabilia for its display items like photos, uniforms or memorabilia would be most welcome

The school has progressed a long way from two classroom building in 1876 To what the complex is today Major changes took place in the 1930's when the first brick building was erected. The second and front building was erected in the 1940's

The Brisbane City Council intends to make significant changes to the intersections of Cavendish Road, Holdsworth Street and Kitchener Street. Coorparoo, with an intersection upgrade. Many drivers and pedestrians are finding it difficult to see oncoming vehicles and judge safe gaps in traffic. To improve safety for everyone and better manage how the intersection operates, the council is planning to instal traffic lights with pedestrian crossings and a permanent closure of Kitchen Street at Cavendish Road, creating a cul-de-sac. With 17 crashes between 2017 and 2024 it is about time that the is doing things to make it safer for motorists and pedestrians.

Members are also reminded that the Annual Membership fees were due on 1 March 2026.
Membership renewal can be paid by bank transfer or cash at our next meeting.

Banking details;

Bank of Queensland

BSB 124062

Account No. 90258888

If paying by bank transfer please make sure that your name appears on the payment so that we are sure of who paid.