

# Show Camp Student Text – Draft

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## The Parade of Champions

By Sophia

More than 500 of the Ekka's best animals will be on show in the Grand Parade on the 13 August at 1:30pm in the Main Arena.

The Grand Parade is a parade of champions. From the tiny Grand Champion fish to the huge Grand Champion bull. There are ribbon-winning goats, beef cattle, dairy cattle, cats, dogs, horses and alpacas.

These are all extraordinary sights to see at the Grand Parade. It also features winners from the Flower, Garden, Arts and Cookery sections.

The Ekka's Grand Parade is a highlight of the Royal Queensland Show. It is a traditional event with roots tracing back to the first Ekka in 1896. It was part of the original vision to Showcase Queensland's best agricultural produce and livestock.

The Grand Parade is more than just a display, it's a symbol of the Ekka's connection to Queensland's agricultural heritage and a celebration of its community spirit.

Steven Baines is the owner of the Grand Champion fish. His prize winning fish species is a Ross River Blue-Eye. He has exhibited fish in the Grand Parade for about 10 years. Mr Baines thinks the most enjoyable part about participating in the Grand Parade is having the public cheer you on. The most difficult part for him is having to walk to the parade in the sun.

"If all the larger animals can participate in the parade, why not fish?" said Mr Baines.

William Reid has seven Brahmans that are going to be in the Grand Parade. His animals have won Grand Champion Bradford Bull as well as a few first and second ribbons. Mr Reid's animals have been displayed at the Grand Parade for a long time. He thinks the best part about participating in the parade is letting the public see what they're doing and how they do it.

The Brisbane Show Camp is a joint program of The Department of Education Queensland and The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland. The camp is conducted by the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre.



Buster in the Main Arena as part of this year's Grand Parade

The hardest part for him is how the animals can be unpredictable even in a controlled environment.

“It’s always good to see what animals there are and what our competition might be,” said Mr Reid.

Peter Garratt is the owner of a Holstein dairy cow named Mejuba Pharaoh Sally. Mejuba won Grand Champion Holstein at the Gatton show. In previous years Peter exhibited two cattle, one of them being the Supreme Champion in all breeds. The best part of attending the Grand Parade for is hearing people cheering and clapping. He thinks the hardest part is having to be in the sun for one or two hours and not being able to have any water during the parade.

“I think it is very important to build a connection between our country people and the people in the city. That’s what we’re here for,” said Mr Garratt.



Peter Garratt ready to join in the Grand Parade

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