



Lord Mayor's Community Trust

Supporting Brisbane's Charities

The Farmer Wants a Dance at the Ekka Ball

The *Farmer Wants a Dance* is the theme of Saturday's *City Meets Country* Ekka Ball organised by the Lord Mayor's Community Trust, the last at City Hall before the historic building reopens after major restoration.

Lady Mayoress Lisa Newman today previewed preparations for the ball with RNA Future Directions Committee Chairman Bryce Camm and Board Member Ben Poschelk.

The Lady Mayoress taste-tested a batch of the famous Ekka Strawberry Sundaes, 500 of which will be served up as dessert on Saturday.

"This is a very popular event and we're expecting a full house to help raise funds for the Trust's Brisbane charities and the RNA's selected rural charity, Angel Flight," she said.

Angel Flight will be one beneficiary from the night and is an organisation that arranges crucial transport for rural families to get to their closest hospitals for medical assistance.

Mrs Newman said the Ekka Ball was more than a ball, and represented an important social function for a region and a city with strong agricultural roots.

"Behind the fun of the Ball there are important causes it addresses," she said.

"The Ekka Ball is a commitment to our rural foundations – it enables Brisbane residents to reconnect with our agricultural roots – and represents people across the state coming together and converging on Brisbane."

The ball has sold right across Queensland and New South Wales with Roma, Nebo, Longreach, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Warwick some of the Queensland postcodes represented by guests – leaving just a few remaining tickets.

Locally-sourced food will be served up on the night to support south east Queensland farmers and producers - from Capalaba Chicken and British Cross Angus and Hereford beef produced west of Toowoomba, to Mount Tamborine's Witches Falls Wines and Mooloolaba prawns. Brisbane designer Bora will supply a couture gown for auction.

Fortitude Valley's *Studio One Dancer* Sue Gillingham will take the audience through some progressive dance floor moves on Saturday night to get the atmosphere going.

Aria Award and Country Music Association Gold Guitar winning band, the *Wolverines*, and the Australian navy band will ensure there are plenty of room-stomping anthems.

The Lord Mayor's Community Trust has worked closely with the RNA Future Directions Committee to organise the *City Meets Country* Ball, and has been supported by foundation partners the Council of Mayors (SEQ) and Energex and corporate partners BDO Kendalls and ABN Amro Morgans.

[Ends] August 7, 2009

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