



March 11, 2019

Raising the bar to brew Australia's best beer

Brewers have gone 'ale' out to win the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show (RQFWS) Beer Awards, entering Nutella, salted caramel and peanut brittle flavoured beers, as well as brews made with desalinated water.

Judging started today at the Brisbane Showgrounds, with almost 30 judges including brewers, beer writers and industry figures tasked with tasting 340 entries from 48 breweries over the next two days.

On offer is a \$10,000 education bursary for the winner of the Champion Beer Utilising Desalinated Water, along with a \$5,000 bursary for the brewer behind the Grand Champion Beer. The funds can be used for travel and training, to further their knowledge and help advance the Australian beer industry.

RQFWS Beer Advisory Group member and judge Steve Henderson said the brewers had been creative with their entries, which was great for the diversity of beer.

"Unlike winemakers, brewers aren't bound to an agricultural crop - they're more like bakers where they can add any number of ingredients," he said.

"Most of the entries are from Queensland and while we already have a great brewing scene, this competition is really important in allowing brewers to gauge the quality of their beers."

Mr Henderson said he was especially looking forward to seeing how the 37 beers made using desalinated water fared against the rest.

"Water is a crucial ingredient in beer and it's very unusual for brewers to use desalinated water, so I'm curious to see the outcome," he said.

"We won't know which beers have been made using desalinated water when judging, so we'll really get to see how they compare."

This is the first time in five years the Beer Awards have been held, with the RNA revitalising the competition to once again showcase Australia's outstanding brewers and their products.

It also forms part of the RNA's commitment to reward and recognise the nation's best of the best.

Australia's best beer will be crowned at an awards presentation this Wednesday 13 March at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

WHAT: RQFWS Beer Awards judging



Media Release



WHEN: Monday 11 (8.30am to 5pm) and Tuesday 12 (8.30am to 1pm) March. The specialty beers (Nutella, salted caramel etc) will be judged early Monday afternoon.

WHERE: Stockmen's Bar and Grill - Brisbane Showgrounds, 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills

The awards presentation including the announcement of Australia's best beer will be held this Wednesday 13 March from 12.30pm to 2.30pm in the Ernest Baynes Dining Room, Brisbane Showgrounds.

Editors please note, media are welcome to attend the judging and awards presentation.

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