

Queensland Day - Flavours of Bowen Festival



On June 3, 2023, the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association proudly hosted the Flavours of Bowen Festival, a delightful community event held at the picturesque Bowen Soundshell and Foreshore. Pick of the Crop were there to celebrate with the kids attending the festival.

This remarkable festival was made possible through the sponsorship program of the Queensland Government, which granted funds to 10 communities across the state to commemorate Queensland Day by holding an event within their respective localities.

In Bowen, the festival aimed to honor the region's exceptional food and produce. With an impressive attendance of over 2,000 individuals, the event created a vibrant atmosphere filled with culinary delights, entertainment, and engaging activities for everyone to enjoy!

What's your flavour?

The festival highlighted the incredible variety of food produced in the region.

Attendees had the pleasure of exploring numerous market stalls offering fresh local produce, as well as indulging in mouthwatering dishes served by various food vendors.



From farm-fresh fruits and vegetables to delectable culinary creations by celebrity chef Grant Madgwick the festival was a gastronomic feast for the senses.

The serve up

Beyond the culinary offerings, the festival provided a diverse range of activities and competitions to keep attendees entertained throughout the day.

Children and adults got the opportunity to participate in tomato egg-spoon racing, sack races, tomato carting, and the highly anticipated watermelon eating contest. These spirited competitions added an element of excitement and friendly competition to the event, with participants vying for a range of awesome prizes!



Ry Collins, the Chief Executive Officer of the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association, expressed his delight at the community's enthusiastic support for the event.

"The Flavours of Bowen Festival presented an opportunity to celebrate the food that is produced in our region, our diversity, and everything great about living in Queensland. It's fantastic to see the community come out in support and share in this celebration."

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Pick of the Crop

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association's, Pick of the Crop regional coordinator, Helena De Bortoli went all out in organising a kids' colouring activity.

Twelve templates featuring some of the abundant fruits and vegetables grown in the region were created for the children to colour in.

Kiddies had the opportunity to proudly exhibit their beautiful coloured in masterpieces like Jamaica (below) who proudly posed next to her perfect eggplant masterpiece!



The popularity of the veggie templates was a wonderful surprise but also children's remarkable ability to recognise and identify different types of produce was fantastic to see. Overall, the activity was a hit even through it was windy weather!

The festival was a scrumptious success, bringing together the community to revel in the region's culinary treasures. By celebrating local flavors and fostering community spirit, the festival left a lasting impression on both residents and visitors alike.

The Bowen Gumlu Growers Association, supported by Whitsunday Regional Council and Bowen Tourism and Business, has undoubtedly created an annual event that will continue to be a highlight on the region's calendar for years to come.



For more information on Pick of the Crop, see www.hw.qld.gov.au/pick-of-the-crop.

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