

Royal titles snagged

RIVERINA butchers recently gave a royal command performance to snag several awards in the Australian Meat Council's annual Regional Sausage King Competition for Southern NSW.

Wagga butchers Koorungal Mall Butchery, Blake Street Country Fresh Meats Knights meats and Lake Village Butchery all won categories along with Narrandera Gourmet Meats.

Koorungal Mall Butchery won the coveted Traditional Australian Category while Blake Street Country Fresh Meats led the way in the Traditional Australian Pork and Australian Lamb/Open Class categories.

Knights Meats produced the best poultry sausages while Narrandera Gourmet Meats received the crown in the Continental category.

Lake Village Butchery snagged first place in the Gourmet/Open Class.

Riverina butchers also dominated the inaugural heat of the Best Butchers Burger, with Narrandera Quality Meats winning the category with its Beef Bacon Rissolle, Tolland Meat Centre's Duke Burger pacing second and Knights Meats' chicken mango chilli finishing third.

The judging of the ACT and southern NSW heats of the national award was carried out with a "cook off" at Wagga TAFE.

The ever popular Traditional beef/lamb and pork sausages along with the more exotic varieties of Thai chicken sausage, Lamb with goats' cheese and exotic continental and gourmet sausages were sampled by the judges to determine the best sausages in each category.

Burgers made from beef, lamb and chicken were cooked, tasted and judged to find the Best Butchers Burger.

Experienced judges made up of consumers and trade experts scrutinised the uncooked and cooked appearance of the sausages and burgers and taste tested them for their flavour and texture.

The round was the second last of the heats in council's annual contest run from July to September with the State Final to determine the finest sausage and burger makers in NSW to be held on November 9 at The Entrance.

"Each year brings new creative recipes from the sausage masters who enter this event," a council spokesman said.



Butcher John Daniher with some of Koorungal Mall Butchery's award-winning traditional Australian snags. Picture: Alastair Brook



MEMORIES: (From left) Skipper John Bertrand with Former Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Alan Bond the America's Cup Australia II Luncheon yesterday.

'Aussies still big part of Cup win'

ALAN Bond, who bankrolled the historic 1983 America's Cup win, has marked the 30th anniversary of that victory by highlighting Australia's role in the latest event.

Syndicate owner Bond, skipper John Bertrand, most of his crew and the prime minister at the time, Bob Hawke, were among the luminaries at a lunch in Sydney yesterday to mark the anniversary.

Just a few hours earlier in San Francisco, Oracle Team USA completed a successful defence and extraordinary comeback by beating Emirates New Zealand in the final race.

Oracle came back from a seemingly irretrievable 8-1 deficit.

The American boat was skipped by Australian James Spithill, and he had at least another half-dozen Australian compatriots in his crew, including 2012 Olympic Laser gold medallist Tom Slingsby.

The Australian contingent also included coach Darren Bundock and general manger Grant Simmer, who was a crew member aboard Australia II in 1983 and has now been a part of four America's Cup wins.

"It's no wonder they needed the expertise of Australia to retain that cup," Bond said.

"They got faster with the

modifications they were making for the last race, it was a fantastic race for them.

"But a lot of the credit should go to the Australians that sailed on that yacht this morning."

The fightback was reminiscent of the Australia II effort in which they came from 3-1 down to win 4-3.

"When our backs are to the wall, and how we fight against seemingly impossible odds, its part of the DNA of this country," Bertrand said.

Hawke said he felt pride that "little Australia" with a small technological base at the time had "out-teched the bastards."

"I don't think any prime minister before or since has even been more proud of leading this nation than on that moment," Mr Hawke said.

Bertrand said history might have provided a different ending, as a day after the final race, the bolt holding up the mainsail on Australia II exploded and the sail fell down.

Crew member Rob Brown said the sailors aboard Australia II were motivated and highly confident, even before being addressed by master motivator and AFL legend Ron Barassi at a team dinner.



HEARTACHE: Emirates Team New Zealand fans show their emotion at Shed 10 watching race 18 of the 2013 America's Cup.

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