

Battle of the biggest

A 2.7-kilogram burger and a mammoth chicken parma are rivals in the battle for “bogan” supremacy in Fitzroy.

Words Chris Canty
Photography Simon Schluter

The current titleholder is the so-called “Bogan Burger” from the Napier Hotel (210 Napier Street, Fitzroy). It comprises sirloin steak, tomatoes, beetroot, garlic butter, caramelised onions, pineapple, bacon, Swiss cheese, chicken schnitzel, potato cake and egg in Turkish bread with a side of huge wedges and salad for \$15.50. Total weight: a staggering 2.715 kilograms. “We sell about 20 a day,” says Napier chef Jack O’May. “It has three different kinds of animals in it, which makes it great for hangovers.”

The secret to eating it is to cut it into quarters, with an equal measure of beetroot and egg in each. Ignore the



gigantic wedges until at least halfway into the burger, but when ready, a mini-bowl of mayonnaise (\$1) can help them slide down (and you’re obviously not worrying about the fat content at this stage of the game).

Recently, the Rochester Castle Hotel (202 Johnston Street, Fitzroy) entered its own mammoth contender, the “Bogan Parma”. It consists of a plate-sized chicken schnitzel, slices of ham, tomato sauce, melted cheese and two fried eggs draped over the top. Hidden beneath all this are large salty chips and a side salad. It weighs in at a (relatively paltry) 1.563 kilograms but costs only \$6 if you order before 7pm (the price increases by \$1 each hour after).

To eat, begin by dunking the chips into the egg yolks and spreading the yolks all over the bird. Then be sure to get an equal amount of chicken, cheese, ham, egg, lettuce and chips onto the fork. Wash it down with the pub’s signature beer on tap, FGB.

“It’s one of our highest sellers,” says publican Leon Hemphill. “I think people want to know what’s bogan about it, which they figure out when they see the size of it and the eggs hanging off the plate. It might not look pretty, but it hits the spot so we haven’t made any changes to it.”



Napier chef Jack O’May with a 2.7-kilogram Bogan Burger (above); the Bogan Parma (far left).