

100 FREE THINGS TO DO AT THE EKKKA

1. See themed scarecrows inspired by mischievous outlaws or noble guardians of the garden realm, at the School Scarecrow Competition presented by Brunnings.
Where: Flower and Garden Precinct
2. Feel the beat and enjoy some toe-tapping fun with the Brisbane Cloggers.
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
3. Enjoy unbridled talent and equestrian excellence during Horse Competition judging.
Where: Main Arena
4. Delight in a night of glitz, glamour and giddy fun at Drag Queen Bingo.
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
5. Celebrate form, creativity and craftsmanship at the Sculpture Competition.
Where: 7NEWS Community Pavilion
6. Discover the next generation of green thumbs at the School Garden Competition presented by Brunnings, showcasing student-grown displays and budding horticultural talent.
Where: Flower and Garden Precinct
7. Fast, focused and farm-ready...watch the next generation of agricultural talent take centre stage in the Australian Young Farmer Challenge presented by Dairy Farmers.
Where: Main Arena
8. Share the love and capture a heartwarming happy snap under the neon Ekka Love sign.
Where: Gourmet Plaza
9. Jump into action and witness the ultimate bond between horse and rider at Ekka's high-stakes Showjumping Competition.
Where: Main Arena
10. Kick up your heels and scoot along to Ekka's Line Dancing Hoedown presented by Ariat Australia.
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
11. Discover a colourful underwater showcase at the Fish Competition, featuring vibrant fish and aquatic plant displays.
Where: Agricultural Education Hall

12. Kids will enjoy sorting imitation eggs for delivery to the market, supermarket or home at Cluck and Collect.
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
13. Get up close to one of the Ekka's cutest and tiniest stars at Cradle-a-Chick presented by Carnival Cruise Line.
Where: Large Animal Pavilion (ground floor)
14. Enjoy laughter, lyrics and legendary yarns at the Bush Poetry Competition.
Where: Stockman's Rest
15. Feel the beat with community dance groups performing styles from Bollywood to ballet.
Where: Main Stage
16. From pasture to podium, see the best of Australia's beef cattle on show across the Stud Beef and Led Steer Competitions.
WHERE: Main Arena and Large Animal Pavilion
17. Meet the stars of the reptile world at the Venomous Snake and Reptile Show with Wildlife Instinct.
WHERE: King Street
18. Witness the sweet heights of cake artistry in the Cake Decorating Competition.
Where: 7NEWS Community Pavilion
19. See the finest working dogs in action at the Sheep Dog Trials.
Where: Main Arena
20. Strike a pose and capture your perfect Ekka memory with a photo by the huge two-metre high Ekka letters.
Where: Located between Exhibition Station and Gourmet Plaza
21. Enjoy heart, soul and a little bit of twang as we search for Queensland's next country music star at Ekka's ultimate Country Music Showdown.
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
22. Witness the ultimate battle of the bite at Keppel Dagwood Dog Eating Competition.
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
23. From fuzzy ears to tiny hooves, come and enjoy the cutest corner of the Ekka at the Animal Nursery.
Where: Expo Place

24. Honouring our past and celebrating our future! Join the party and learn about the Ekka's 150-year history at our interactive exhibit.
Where: 7NEWS Community Pavilion
25. Feel the snap and experience the power at the Australian Whipcracking and World Bullwhip Championships supported by RM Williams & Packer Leather and hosted by the Australian Whipcrackers & Plaiters Association.
Where: Woodchop Arena presented by AAM
26. Strike up the band and march to the beat as Music on the Move brings rhythm and energy to the Show.
Where: Gregory Terrace
27. Catch the cream of the crop and see dairy excellence at its finest at the Dairy Cattle Competition presented by Aussie Helpers.
Where: Main Arena and Large Animal Pavilion
28. Be amazed by eye-catching produce displays commemorating Ekka's 150th anniversary at the Youth in Agriculture Competition supported by Marsh.
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
29. Get ready for a high-octane spectacle where four-legged stars take centre stage. Heidi Mackay will introduce you to some of the most amazing canine stars in her Hollywood Hounds show.
Where: Show Ring
30. Discover the timeless charm and artistry of quilts at Quilts Across Queensland showcase presented by Pillow Talk. While there, cast your vote for the Viewer's Choice Award and help crown this year's quilting favourite.
Where: 7NEWS Community Pavilion

31. Step into a world where comedy meets Cupid at Singles Mingle Monday hosted by the Sit Down Comedy Club.
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
32. Meet retired racing legends and watch them show off their new skills at Horsing Around presented by Queensland Off-the-Track, Presenting Partner of QOTT Showcase Showjump Events.
Where: Show Ring
33. Every kilo will count as Australia's strongest men and women go head-to-head in a gruelling test of physical and mental fortitude in the 2026 Australian Strongman Alliance Invitational.
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
34. Power meets precision in the thrilling Woodchop Competition. This isn't just about muscle; it's a masterclass in technique, timing and nerves of steel.
Where: Woodchop Arena presented by AAM
35. Go on a deliciously fun adventure and scoop up sweet agricultural facts about Ekka's iconic strawberry sundae at the expanded Strawberry Sundae Lane.
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
36. Celebrate 150 years of the Show at the Ekka's Opening Ceremony.
Where: Main Arena
37. Experience Australian agriculture brought to life by expert sheep shearer Jonathan and skilled roustabout Mikayla at the daily Sheep Shearing Demonstrations.
Where: Sushi Hub Cat Precinct
38. Celebrate feline elegance, form and character when 180 cats across 50 breeds take centre-stage at this year's Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub.
Where: Sushi Hub Cat Precinct



39. *Channel your inner florist and let your creativity go wild while you craft a crown at Flower Crown Making presented by Somerville House.*
Where: Flower & Garden Precinct
40. *Homemade, heart-felt and highly competitive...enjoy a delicious display of fruit cakes, biscuits, scones, slices and more from the Cookery Competition.*
Where: 7NEWS Community Pavilion
41. *Catch the amazing Grand Parade, where blue-ribbon champions from the tiniest Grand Champion Fish to the colossal Grand Champion Stud Bull take centre stage.*
Where: Main Arena
42. *Enjoy a sweet stop during your Ekka day and explore the Apiculture Competition entries.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
43. *Watch in awe as the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Award finalists light up the stage.*
Where: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage
44. *Spin the wheel and be whisked back in time as you enjoy the dazzling theatrical production Threads of Time, where the audience is taken on a journey through 150 years of Queensland culture and fashion.*
Where: Main Stage
45. *Enjoy a vibrant celebration of style, creativity and racing spirit at the Fashions on the Field Competition, part of the prestigious Thoroughbred and Standardbred Day presented by Queensland Off The Track.*
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill
46. *46. Visit the Department of Primary Industries stand to make your own cardboard hat and discover more about agriculture in Queensland.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
47. *Witness the clash of biceps at the Queensland Armwrestling Championships, where only the strongest will claim victory.*
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
48. *Check out what it takes to be crowned with Ekka's mightiest mullet at the very first Royal Queensland Show Mulletfest competition.*
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
49. *Get up close with friendly dairy goats and their kids, watch live milking demonstrations, and enjoy a taste of fresh goat milk while learning about dairy goat farming at The Goat Shed.*
Where: Large Animal Pavilion, ground floor

50. *Watch in awe as Australian master sand sculptors Steve Machell and Tutti Bonacchi transform tonnes of ordinary sand into extraordinary artworks to celebrate 150 years of Ekka, plus enjoy interactive kids' workshops.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
51. *Gear up and enter our very first BeyBlade Tournament to test your speed, power and strategy. The tournament promises something for everyone with junior and senior competition sections.*
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
52. *Pull on your favourite denim and kick off the week Ekkastyle with a high energy night of live music, bootscooting line dancing and big country vibes at the new Sunday FUNday (Uni Night) event.*
Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill
53. *Get cracking at 'Kids Get Cooking!' Presented by Australian Eggs' where you'll whip up a tasty open sandwich to enjoy.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
54. *This year's night show will take audiences on a nostalgic journey through time to celebrate 150 years of Queensland's spirit. Called "Heart of the Land" and featuring horseman Dave Manchon and the Rooftop Express Riders, this epic production will honour the evolution of rural life and agricultural innovation in Queensland.*
Where: Main Arena during EkkaNITES
55. *Listen for the roar of the V8s and the whistle of the turbos as the Ekka's Beaut Ute Muster Parade returns and rolls into the Main Arena on the last Sunday of Show.*
Where: Main Arena
56. *Be amazed and amused by comedian Joel Salmon and Erik the Robot Dog. This Aussie duo can juggle, they can make music, and the dog can even talk! What more could you ask?*
Where: Main Stage
57. *Step right up and enjoy an extraordinary tribute to the golden age of the travelling circus. Featuring three world record breakers including master contortionist Ruby Rubberlegs, The Great Gordo Gamsby Strong Man, and the sword-swallowing Space Cowboy – the Human Marvels Sideshow Circus is not for the faint of heart!*
Where: Main Stage

58. *Don't miss the Ekka's inaugural Dance Eisteddfod which provides an exciting performance opportunity for dance schools and studios. The winners will take home the 2026 trophy and the opportunity to perform live at Dreamworld.*
Where: Main Stage
59. *Hold on to your hats as renowned horseman Dave Manchon's beautiful gelding "Vegemite" makes Ekka history by enjoying a joyride in a Mercedes convertible during EkkaNITES.*
Where: Main Arena during EkkaNITES
60. *Catch the Giant Pineapple Display by Tropical Pines which brings together history, flavour and industry storytelling in one bright, juicy showcase.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
61. *Embark on the Ekka Learning Trail for a hands-on agricultural adventure. Don't forget to grab your Learning Trail Passport and collect 10 stamps from the 10 interactive trail points.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
62. *Enjoy fun and informative cooking demonstrations from some of the best in the business as talented chefs and passionate producers cook with Queensland's finest ingredients at the Royal Queensland Cooking Stage.*
Where: Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion
63. *Bring the whole family and line the streets for the official opening of the Ekka with a spectacular Opening Day Street Parade.*
Where: Gregory Terrace

64. *Picture this – a stunning showcase of creativity, colour and perspective at the Photography Competition.*
Where: 7NEWS Community Pavilion
65. *It's a tail-wagging showcase of pedigree, poise and personality at the Sushi Hub Canine Competition.*
Where: Sushi Hub Canine Precinct
66. *From sweet jams to tangy chutneys and relishes, see Queensland-grown ingredients shine in the Queensland in a Jar competition.*
Where: ABC Broadcast Tent
67. *It's time to 'goat' excited – one of Queensland's largest dairy goat gatherings is back at the Ekka.*
Where: Large Animal Pavilion (Level 1)
68. *Feel the heat as farriers and blacksmiths fire up the forge and put their skills to the test in this striking showdown.*
Where: Stockman's Rest
69. *Step into the fascinating world of dairy and discover the journey from farm to food at the new Butter Barn presented by Norco.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall



70. *Stop and smell the roses...and see some stunning garden installations from clubs, associations and community groups at the Horticultural Competition displays.*
Where: Flower and Garden Precinct
71. *Step into a woolly wonderland at the Wool Workshop presented by Toy Farm, where kids can discover how fluffy fleece is transformed from sheep to yarn.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
72. *Magnificent roosters, elegant waterfowl, colourful parrots and prize-winning pigeons and eggs will take centre stage in this year’s Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs Competition.*
Where: Large Animal Pavilion (ground floor)
73. *Step into a world of urban farming at Little Backyard Farmers presented by Somerville House, an educational experience which teaches kids about growing their own food and caring for the environment.*
Where: Flower and Garden Precinct
74. *Be AMAZED as the all-new EkkaNITES Fireworks Spectacular delivers one of the most ambitious and technically advanced pyrotechnic displays ever staged at the Brisbane Showgrounds.*
Where: Main Arena
75. *Strap-in, hold tight and don’t blink...Aussie FMX will deliver an electrifying performance with Riders of the Night – a freestyle motocross spectacular combining extreme sport with cutting-edge LED technology.*
Where: Main Arena
76. *From fleece to first place – experience the excitement of the Sheep Competition.*
Where: Large Animal Pavilion
77. *Get ready for BIG air and BIG excitement as the Hot Wheels Heroes featuring Matt and Madz Mingay bring the iconic toy brand to life in a high-octane performance.*
Where: Main Arena
78. *In a special tribute to Daredevil’s of the Past, watch riders climbing elevated ladders mounted to moving vintage-style motorbikes during EkkaNITES.*
Where: Main Arena
79. *Join us for a delightful adventure when everyone’s favourite farmyard friends take to the stage in a talent quest full of laughs. A new show the whole family will love!*
Where: Main Stage

80. *Take a break and enjoy an action-packed lunchtime show filled with laughs, thrills, and unforgettable entertainment – the new Hour of Power presented by Horsey People.*
Where: Main Arena
81. *Children can dive into the world of robotics through a range of free, hands-on activities at the BotBuilders Robotics exhibit –an inspiring space to explore STEM, creativity, and robotics.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
82. *Take an immersive 360-degree tour of Australian beef and lamb production at the Meat & Livestock Australia’s (MLA) Australian Good Meat Paddock to Plate virtual reality experience.*
Where: Large Animal Pavilion
83. *Look up! The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Roulettes will soar above the Brisbane Showgrounds on People’s Day, thrilling crowds with their high-energy aerobatic display.*
Where: Brisbane Showgrounds (aerial display)
84. *Ekka crowds are invited to pull on their flannelette shirts on Friday 14 August and be part of a world record attempt for the most flannels in one place – all in support of Farm Angels.*
Where: XXXX Stockmen’s Bar & Grill
85. *Enjoy watching competitors in the prestigious Thoroughbred and Standardbred Day presented by Queensland Off-The-Track (QOTT) – an event which celebrates two of the most versatile racing breeds.*
Where: Main Arena
86. *See fabulous designs inspired by Denim through the Ages, “1940s” for senior school entrants, and “1800s to 1930s” for Open classes at the Natural Fibres Make and Model parade.*
Where: Main Stage
87. *See some stunning craftsmanship and the special new class - Ekka Memories - at the Quilts Across Queensland Competition.*
Where: 7NEWS Community Pavilion
88. *Explore the colourful and clever work of students at the Education on Show display.*
Where: 7NEWS Community Pavilion
89. *See how your winter woollies stack up against the prize-winning fleece on display.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
90. *Hosted by ABC’s Gardening Australia star Costa Georgiadis, watch as talented florists decorate*

- real beards, moustaches, and hats in front of a live audience on People’s Day with the final looks on display in the Grand Parade.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
91. *Celebrate the future of rural leadership at the State Finals of the Queensland Rural Ambassador Awards.*
Where: Plaza Music Stage
92. *Come and enjoy one of the nation’s most exciting emerging country music stars – Jarrad Wrigley – as he lights up the stage at Ekka!*
Where: XXX Stockmen’s Bar & Grill
93. *Visit the Canegrowers Sugarcane Stand to discover the journey from paddock to product. Get up close to real cane, experience an immersive virtual reality tour, and discover how sugar is made plus much more!*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
94. *Let creativity catch your eye at the vibrant Painting and Drawing Competition display.*
Where: 7NEWS Community Pavilion
95. *Cheer on the future of agriculture as young judges showcase their knowledge, skill and passion during the Young Judges Competition presented by Queensland Government.*
Where: Various locations

96. *Enjoy a special performance by Chris Cobb together with country music legend James Blundell.*
Where: Plaza Music Stage
97. *Discover the buzz of beekeeping and the vital role bees play in agriculture at the Queensland Beekeepers’ Association Stand.*
Where: Agricultural Education Hall
98. *Watch Students present real-world agricultural solutions to address farming challenges in the live AgTech Innovation Sports Showcase.*
Where: Main Stage
99. *Be blown away by the University of the Sunshine Coast’s robotic dogs representing the next generation of livestock management and precision farming during EkkaNITES.*
Where: Main Arena
100. *Experience history in the making when the iconic \$1 million Lexus Melbourne Cup joins the spectacular 150th Ekka celebrations at the Brisbane Showgrounds.*
Where: Main Arena and Gourmet Plaza

