

MUSIC

LOCATION: XXXX STOCKMEN'S BAR & GRILL

NEW! Jarrad Wrigley

WHEN: Saturday 15 August, 8pm to 10.45pm

Emerging Australian country artist Jarrad Wrigley will bring his high-energy country sound to Ekka, performing songs that celebrate rural life with honesty, humour and heart.

The 22-year-old sheep farmer from Stanthorpe grew up with a deep admiration of the land and developed a love for the stories and sounds of country music.

Jarrad's high-energy country twang and heartfelt ballads are helping him win audiences wherever he goes. After spending the last few years on stage, he won Ekka's 2025 Country Music Showdown Open Category and was recently crowned 46th Toyota Star Maker in Tamworth.

Will Day

WHEN: Friday 14 August, 8pm to 10.45pm

With a genuine gift for storytelling, compelling vocals, and the ability to connect with a crowd, Will Day is fast becoming one of Australia's premier country artists.

Fresh off the release of his powerful new single, Red Dirt Church, Will is bringing his heartfelt lyrics and high-energy performance to the stage at Ekka.

Recently he has performed at some of Australia's most iconic country music festivals including the Tamworth Country Music Festival, Groundwater Country Music Festival, Savannah in the Round and the Gympie Music Muster.

NEW! Sam Snape

WHEN: Saturday 15 August, 3pm to 5pm

Australian country music artist Sam Snape will bring his modern

country sound and authentic storytelling to Ekka.

Hailing from Boggabri in New South Wales, Sam is building a loyal following with his honest lyrics inspired by life on the land, family, friendship and the Australian spirit.

A 2025 Ekka Country Music Showdown People's Choice winner, Sam delivers a live show packed with genuine country charm and feel-good energy.

Other highlights include:

NEW! Bo'Ness Brother Band Country rock with sibling harmonies	Sunday 9 August from 8pm
NEW! Eleea Country and Folk Singer-Songwriter	Monday 10, Tuesday 11 and Thursday 13 August from 12pm
NEW! Jaydin Shingleton 2026 Toyota Star maker Grand Finalist and contestant on The Voice	Thursday 13, Friday 14 and Sunday 16 August from 3pm

LOCATION: PLAZA MUSIC STAGE

NEW! Chris Cobb with special guest country superstar James Blundell

WHEN: Friday 14 August, 2.45pm to 3.30pm

Chris Cobb will perform at Ekka with special guest and country music legend James Blundell, bringing heartfelt storytelling and a modern country sound to the Plaza Music Stage.

Originally from Papua New Guinea and now based on the Sunshine Coast, Chris is one of the headline singers in EkkaNITES Celebrate 150 and has just released his debut album, More Questions Than Answers, a powerful collection of country songs inspired by home,

family, resilience. Fresh from his standout appearance on The Voice Australia, Chris brings heartfelt storytelling, powerful vocals and a genuine country sound to the Ekka stage.

2025 Toyota Star Maker Winner: Felicity Kircher

WHEN: Sunday 16 August, 2.45pm to 3.30pm

Felicity Kircher, winner of the 2025 Tamworth Toyota Star Maker, will bring her powerhouse vocals and contemporary country sound to Ekka.

Known for her commanding vocals, heartfelt songwriting, and electric live performances, she blends contemporary country energy with authentic storytelling.

With a growing national profile, Felicity is recognised as one of Australia's most exciting emerging country talents.

Tia Hannah

WHEN: Saturday 15 August, 2.45pm to 3.30pm

Tia Hannah is a 15-year-old country-folk artist from the Central Coast of NSW. With soulful fiddle, acoustic guitar playing and vocals, she creates a heartfelt and mature sound inspired by Alison Krauss, Sierra Ferrell and Missy Higgins.

Tia is a 2025 Junior CMAA graduate who performs original songs and personalised covers. She has developed her craft through years of busking and festival appearances, including the Tamworth Country Music Festival, where she placed in the top 10 buskers' competition in 2023 at just 12 years old.

In 2025, Tia took home first place at the Ekka Country Music Showdown (Junior Category),

NEW! NVR EVR - DJ Set

WHEN: 8pm-9pm, Monday 10 to Wed 12 August and Friday 14 to Saturday 15 August

Èva Ilov's NVR EVR DJ set will bring a high-energy mix of pop, dance and rhythm to Ekka, drawing on her experience as an Australian Idol contestant, live performer and DJ.

Designed for festival crowds, the set will add a fresh live entertainment element to the 2026 music program.

Other highlights include:

NEW! Bluegrass Barbie & the Ken Dolls	Tuesday 11 August from 4pm
Beth Lucas Award-winning artist	Thursday 13 August from 11.45am
Natasha Rose Band Reimagining pop	Thursday 14 August from 4pm
Nana's Pie Band Fresh Indie Sounds	Saturday 15 August from 4pm

LOCATION: GREGORY TCE

Music on the Move

WHEN: 10am-5pm daily

Music on the Move will return to Gregory Terrace, bringing rhythm, colour and energy to the Show every day.

The program will feature 19 local school and community marching bands, alongside crowd favourite the Australian Army PEP Band.

New to the lineup this year are Redcliffe State High School and the Bribie Island State High School Marching Drummers.

Ekka's Country Music Showdown

WHEN: Saturday 15 August, 11.15am to 1.15pm (Junior) & 4pm to 6pm (Open)

Location: XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

Ekka's Country Music Showdown will return in 2026 for its biggest year yet.

Now in its 12th year, the Ekka's Country Music Showdown brings together Queensland's best emerging talent in the ultimate search for the next country music star.

Musicians will compete in front of Ekka crowds and a panel of industry judges, performing two songs each for the chance to win career-boosting prizes worth close to \$80,000.

This year's showdown features a stellar line-up of 22 entrants across both the Open and Junior categories. New judge Kate Hathaway, an American music industry professional, will bring international expertise to this year's panel.

The prize pool includes the prestigious Troy Cassar-Daley Scholarship to the Academy of Country Music in Tamworth; paid gigs at Ekka 2027, Gympie Music Muster and Lefty's Music Hall in Brisbane; music and website production services; a professional photo shoot; musical gear; interviews and airplay on iHeartCountry Australia; and more.

