

August 12, 2023

What a showstopper! Ekka opens to sunshine, smiles and more than 40,000

Opening day of the 2023 Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) presented by RACQ was a showstopper as more than 40,000 visitors came through the gates for some Ekka fun!

From watching the crowning of the best stud beef in the nation to seeing Queensland's best arm wrestlers compete, day one of Ekka delivered a host of highlights as tens of thousands of people basked in clear blue skies and plenty of sunshine.

Entertainment, fabulous food, and super fun times await Ekka visitors tomorrow, as the Show gets into the swing of things for its first full weekend.

DAY 2: SUNDAY 13 AUGUST – HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA DOORSTOP:

11.30am with RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou on Heritage Hill overlooking the Main Arena.

JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS:

- 9am – 11.30am - Horse Competition - Judging – Riders with Disabilities in the Main Arena
- 11am – 12.30pm – Young Judges Competition supported by the Queensland Government - Poultry Judging
- From 9am – Bush Poetry presented by Caravanning Queensland at Stockman's Rest
- 9am – 5pm – Canine Competition Presented by Sushi Hub – Toy Group Judging and Greyhound Sweepstakes Judging at Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion
- 9.30am – 4.30pm - Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub - Longhair Kittens & Companions Judging at Sushi Hub Cat Precinct
- From 11.30am – Sheep Dog Trials in the Main Arena

NEW - AUSTRALIAN STRONGMAN ALLIANCE: QUALIFIER FOR THE MAGNUS CLASSIC

When: 10am.

Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

Watch as some of Australia's top strong men and women take on five gruelling events in an Australian Strongman Alliance competition. These super athletes will compete in the sandbag load medley, max log press, pole push, Hercules hold (150kg per hand for the men and 80kg for the women) and lever deadlift (400kg for the men and 250kg for the women). It's the first time the Ekka has hosted the only Queensland qualifier for one of the biggest events internationally, the 2023 Magnus Ver Magnusson Strongman Classic, held in Iceland later this year.

CHIPS FLY AT THE WOODCHOP

When: 9am – 5pm.

Where: Woodchop Arena presented by AAM

The iconic Woodchop and Sawing Competition has been held at the Ekka for more than a century. Axemen and women of all ages compete in this popular competition – some are even fourth generation. Highlights on Sunday include the Junior 250mm Standing Block Royal Queensland Show Championship at 2.35pm, the 275mm Australian Women’s Underhand Championship at 3pm, and the final of the Open 300mm Treefelling Handicap at 4.10pm.

‘BREATH-IN, BLEAT-OUT!’ – GOAT YOGA

When: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm & 2pm.

Where: Stockman’s Rest

Enjoy the vibrant energy from baby goats while embodying the peaceful art of meditation. These cuties will nibble, nuzzle and bleat at Ekka goers striking a yoga pose, leaving them with a smile and some great selfies! Instead of perfectly posing in spiritual silence, the sessions by Karmably Goat Yoga will guide people to compassionately observe the chaotic beauty provided by the baby goats - embrace the present madness and flow with the moment.

FARMER’S BEST FRIEND ON SHOW – SHEEP DOG TRIALS

When: Heats from 11.30am with the finals taking place from 2.30pm.

Where: Main Arena

The Sheep Dog Trials will see the close working relationship between the entrants and their trusted best friends put to the test. The competition was first held at the Ekka in 1899, with the dogs judged on cast, approach, bridging, obstacle and general work. Eight dogs will compete on the Main Arena on Sunday.

BUSH POETS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

When: From 9am. Where: Stockman’s Rest

Passionate bush poets from the aspiring to the experienced will recite their favourite established poem or original ballad about Australia, Australians or the Australian way of life in the Bush Poetry Competition presented by Caravanning Queensland. There is also a class based on the theme of caravanning. School students also enter the competition, with bush poetry a great way for English students to develop their poetry and performing skills.

IT’S TIME TO SEPARATE THE FARMERS FROM THE CITY SLICKERS

When: From 4.30pm

Where: Main Arena

An initiative of the RNA Future Directions Committee, the Australian Young Farmer Challenge delivered by Dominos is a relay-style event comprised of eight team challenges incorporating everyday farm life. Teams of four (aged between 18 and 35) will battle it out on the Main Arena rolling giant hay bales, constructing cattle cages, rolling up swags, treating pretend snake bites and more.

AIRTIME FMX MOTOCROSS PUSH THE LIMITS

When: 12:40pm. Where: Main Arena

The Airtime Freestyle Motocross Team will put on a special daytime performance on Sunday...and will also perform in EkkaNITES presented by Brisbane City Council. They will launch motorcycles high in the air while performing some of the most death-defying stunts. This show is guaranteed to have you on the edge of your seat from start to finish! Born from the highly successful ShowTime FMX Team, Airtime FMX features some of the most experienced show FMX riders in the world.

TOP GUNS FLY IN - ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIRFORCE ROCK BAND

When: 11.45am – 2.30pm

Where: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage

Performing at Ekka for the first time, the Royal Australian Airforce Rock Band are ready to rock the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage. Flying up from Melbourne, the rock band consists of 10 talented individuals from the Airforce who love to perform a variety of music styles that are sure to get audiences on their feet! Don't miss these top guns in action!

Ekka Essentials:

- Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) August 12-20, 2023
- Brisbane Showgrounds, 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, Queensland
- Gates open at 9am
- Tickets are available online at www.ekka.com.au

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: The 2023 Ekka Media Kit is available to download. It is the most comprehensive information guide to the show - to download please visit www.ekka.com.au/media/media-kit/

Download the Ekka App from Google Play or the App Store.

For the latest updates, follow us on social media @TheEkka



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