

August 9, 2024

C'mon Queensland it's Ekka time!

The gates to Queensland's biggest and most loved annual event, the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka), open tomorrow at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

About 400,000 showgoers are expected to descend on the Showgrounds across the nine-day showcase, in a true celebration of the country coming to the city.

The RNA is once again encouraging Queenslanders to come together to celebrate country spirit in the heart of the city and support the state's agricultural sector and farming communities, while enjoying the fun of the fair.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said the Ekka offered a wide range of budget conscious options making it affordable for all showgoers.

"We are a not-for-profit organisation and are very mindful of cost-of-living pressures and want to ensure the Show can be enjoyed on any budget," Mr Christou said.

"We have new value food bundles starting from \$7.50 across 110 Ekka food vendors, plus Super Saver Days of Show, two-for-one rides returning and more than 300 free things to do and see every day of Show.

"The Show continues to feature all the traditional and unique experiences we know and love including our beloved competitions, animals, rides, showbags, amazing entertainment including the night show and fireworks plus some of the nation's finest food and wine.

"Our competitions showcase the very best of Queensland and visitors will be amazed by award-winning entries and exhibitors across 60 sections including cookery, creative arts, quilt making, blacksmithing, woodchopping, beef cattle, poultry, fleece breeds, canine, cats, horse and showjumping."

Amazing kids entertainment is sure to bring the house down with Dinosaur Train and ZimboyZ Acrobatic Troup while Australia's favourites Emma Memma and Bluey and Bingo will perform on the final weekend of Show.

The Main Arena will be lit up each night in a dazzling display of colour, with the EkkaNITES themed NEON NITES show culminating in spectacular fireworks each night of show.

From exhilarating rides to cuddling baby animals, milking a cow to watching the high-octane monster trucks, enjoying award-winning steaks to the iconic strawberry sundaes and ever popular dagwood dog, the Ekka really has it all.

Tickets for the 2024 Royal Queensland Show are available online at www.ekka.com.au

Day 1: Saturday 10 August – HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA DOORSTOP:

11am with RNA President David Thomas on Heritage Hill overlooking the Main Arena.

JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS:

- From 9am – Stud Beef Cattle judging, Main Arena including Parade of Champions (2.30pm) and Champion of Champions (3.30pm).
- From 9am – Canine judging (Non-Sporting Dogs), Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion
- From 9.30am – Shorthair Kitten Judging, Sushi Hub Cat Precinct
- 10.00am – 12 noon – Poultry, Pigeons, Birds & Eggs Competition Awards Presentation
- From 9am – Woodchop and Sawing including the Under 13's Invitational 250mm Underhand Competition at 1.05pm and the Jack & Jill 375mm Double Handed Sawing Championship of Australia at 3.25pm, AAM Woodchop Arena
- 3pm – 4pm – Fish Competition Judging – Nano Tank Judging, Ag Education Hall

A WHOLE LOTTA BULL!

This year's Show has welcomed more than 1,250 head of cattle for Australia's largest annual cattle competition. Judging of our stud beef competition continues tomorrow and includes the Santos Champion of Champions judging and Parade of Champions. Witness the crowning of the Ekka's Grand Champion Bull of Show.

When: Parade of Champions (2.30pm) Santos Champion of Champions judging (3.30pm).

Where: Main Arena

GO BIG OR GO HOME!

It'll be a battle of the biceps when the Australian Armwrestling Federation Queensland Championships take over XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill on opening day. More than 50 men and women will compete across lightweight, middleweight, and heavyweight classes in a double elimination competition. The competitive arm wrestlers range from world title contenders to husbands and wives. This is one competition sure to strong arm some new fans at the Ekka!

When: Competition starts at 12pm.

Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

HAVE A SNOOP AT THESE DOGS!

Don't miss the Non-Sporting Dog judging with these paw-fect breeds including Terrier, Bulldog, Poodle, Great Dane, Dalmatian, Peruvian Hairless Dog, and Xoloitzcuintle and more. The Sushi Hub Canine Competition is one of the largest and most popular events at Ekka. With judges flying in from around the world, including Cindy Vogels from the USA, and everyone's favourite breeds on display, the event is sure to be a crowd winner.

When: From 9am

Where: Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion

EKKA-AFFORDABLE

New value food deals, two-for-one rides and more than 300+ free things to do each day of show are part of this year's budget conscious Ekka. For the first time ever, every food vendor at Ekka will offer a low-cost menu item plus discounted food and drink value bundles, and our new Ekka Tuck Shop provides even more value with nothing over \$5. There are also savings across the popular two-for-one rides deal from 9.30am to 10.30am each morning, as well as four special Super Saver Days of Show – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – where tickets are 20 per cent cheaper.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The Ekka's traditional opening ceremony will be held on the first day of Show, to welcome Ekka guests from across the state. Rich in heritage and tradition, it includes a Welcome to Country performed by traditional owner Shannon Ruska, Blessing of the Plough, the sounds of the Australian Army Band Brisbane and more. The show will officially be opened by Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

When: 6pm

Where: Main Arena

Ekka Essentials:

- Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) August 10-18, 2024
- 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 2024 Ekka Media Kit is now available to download. It is the most comprehensive information guide to the show - to download please visit www.ekka.com.au/media/media-kit

And 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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