

MUSIC



NEW – Tania Kernaghan

WHEN: 6:30PM EVERY NIGHT

WHERE: MAIN ARENA

Country Music royalty will be gracing the stage every night at this year's Ekka, with Tania Kernaghan performing the National Anthem, her new hit tune and well-loved Australian ballads including I still call Australia Home and Hey True Blue.

The country music star is no stranger to big crowds having performed at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, as well as taking home four Country Music Association of Australia Golden Guitar awards.

Country Music Showdown presented by Ariat Australia

WHEN: 9AM-12:30PM (JUNIOR CATEGORY) & 12:40PM (JUNIOR PRESENTATIONS); 1PM-5PM (OPEN CATEGORY) & 5:10PM (OPEN PRESENTATIONS) ON AUGUST 17

WHERE: XXXX STOCKMEN'S BAR AND GRILL

This year the Country Music Showdown presented by Ariat Australia celebrates 10 years of unearthing rising stars.

Rising country music stars aged 12 years and over will prove their worth in the ultimate music experience, taking to the XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill stage to perform performing two songs to Ekka crowds.

The ultimate search for Queensland's next 'big thing' in country music goes up a level with more than \$70,000 in cash and prizes for the Open and Junior winners.

Competitors will be battling it out for career-boosting prizes including website design and creation by Deeper Look, music video production by Slow Cooked, a scholarship to the Troy Cassar-Daley Academy of Country Music, season pass and chance to perform at the Gympie Music Muster, scheduling of a performance profile package by Capital Country Radio and Country Music Bulletin, photoshoot and images by Renee Brazel Photography, musical equipment gift packs from Guitar Brothers, guitars from Riffs & Licks Music, airplay on Kix Country and best of all (at least in our opinion!) performance opportunity and tickets to Ekka 2025.

Multicultural Plaza Music Stage

Reality TV stars on Show

The talented contestants from Channel 7's Australian Idol and The Voice will be showcasing their vocals at the Ekka. The Queensland Government Multicultural Plaza Music Stage and XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill will be hosting Reality TV royalty with seven former contestants performing throughout the nine days of Ekka.

STAR RETURNS TO WHERE SHE HAD HER FIRST BIG BREAK

The Voice 2023 contestant Bella Mackenzie returns to the Ekka where she got her first big break as a young performer in the Country Music Showdown. Several years on, Bella impressed Australian audiences – making it to the semi-final of Channel 7's The Voice. She returns as part of Ekka's 7 Days of Qld Singing.

Multicultural Plaza Music Stage

Ch 7 Denvah Aust Idol 2024	3pm on August 12
Ch 7 Kiani Aust Idol 2024	3pm on August 13
Ch 7 Tyler Hamill and Nana's Pie Aust Idol 2024	3pm on August 14
Ch 7 Etienne Steven The Voice 2023	3pm on August 15
Ch 7 Natasha Rose (3 Piece) Aust Idol 2024	11:45am, 12:45pm & 1:45pm on August 15 3pm on August 16 4:15pm, 5:15pm and 6:15pm on August 18
Ch7 Bella Mackenzie The Voice 2023	3pm on August 17
Ch 7 Saoirse Harding Aust Idol 2024	9:30am-11:15am on August 12 10:30am on August 16 3pm on August 18

XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

The Smashing Bumpkins

WHEN: EVERY NIGHT AT EKKA NITES

WHERE: MAIN ARENA

WHEN: 8:30PM ON AUGUST 12 (SINGLES MINGLE)

The Smashing Bumpkins are a rollicking bush dance band made up of band members from local punk rock and rock'n'roll bands. More than a decade ago they found a musical niche no one knew was needed, which combines traditional bush dance calling with riffs and hooks from well-known rock, pop and any other genre's songs! Delivered with joyful revelry and contagious onstage enthusiasm, The Smashing Bumpkins are a little bit different and a whole lot of fun. They'll be sure to get you up and dancing!

NEW - Sarah Savannah

WHEN: 11:30AM-2:30PM AUGUST 12, 13, 15 & 16 AND

10:30AM-10:50PM AUGUST 17

Singer-songwriter Sarah Savannah returns to the Ekka as an artist in her own right, having won the coveted Junior Ekka Country Music Showdown in 2023, as well as the Junior Gympie Muster Talent Search the previous year. The talented vocalist has performed at The Tamworth Country Music Festival, Groundwater Country Music Festival and at festivals and venues all over QLD and NSW. She will be wowing audiences at the XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill with hits both old and new.

NEW - Beth Lucas

WHEN: 3:30PM-6:30PM AUGUST 12, 3PM-6PM AUGUST 15, 16 & 18 AND 1PM AUGUST 17

Beth Lucas returns to the Ekka after a massive 12 months, where she took first place in The Ekka's Country Music Showdown, graduated CMAA The Academy of Country Music Australia as the recipient of the Keith Urban Scholarship and opened for Adam Brand, Taylor Moss and Matt Cornell. In addition, the talented artist will be performing songs from her third country offering, Rearview Mirror.

NEW - The Filthy Animals

WHEN: 8PM-11PM ON AUGUST 10

The Filthy Animals is a supergroup of well-known and respected Australian musicians who came together during Covid to form a top shelf rock cover band while their main acts were unable to perform due to capacity restrictions.

The Filthy Animals boast past and current members of Australian rock royalty bands such as Choirboys, Dragon, Mondo Rock, Eurogliders, John Butler Trio, Savage Garden, Wolfmother, The Vines, Skyhooks, The Angels, Rose Tattoo, Ian Moss Band, Midnight Oil and many more.

NEW - Cush Ryder

WHEN: 7.30PM-10.30PM AUGUST 9

Cush Ryder is a country rock artist hailing from Melbourne, Australia. Breaking into the charts in 2021, with a sound that blends New Country with Australian pub-rock, Ryder has quickly made a name for himself on the local country music scene. Ryder is a high energy country rock act that is sure to make waves for the new market of country listeners today.

NEW - Hillbilly Goats

WHEN: 8PM-11PM AUGUST 14

2022 Australian Folk band of the Year, Golden Fiddle Recipients and four-time "Bluegrass" Golden Guitar finalists, The Hillbilly Goats will take to the stage at this year's Ekka for one night only. Listen as they strip back the layers of modern music and transport you on a journey through Roots and Old Time Blues. These guys aren't just a band - they're a "show" featuring stories and song combined with tap dancing, bones, big harmonies and regular instrument changes, with plenty of hard fiddle and fast harmonica.

NEW - West Texas Crude

WHEN: 8PM-11PM AUGUST 17

West Texas Crude is an award winning and dynamic four-piece band. Performing since 2000, West Texas Crude's main musical influences are rockabilly, rhythm and blues, roots music, country, and rock'n'roll, also covering some more current artists in our own special way. They are no strangers to big crowds, having played at Blues on Broadbeach, Groundwater Country Festival, Tamworth and many more. Frontman Andy Dashwood never lets an audience down with his vocals and lead guitar complemented by a passion for music, which is reflected in every performance.

