

# MUSIC

## *NEW! Will Day*

**WHEN: Saturday 9 August, 8pm-10.45pm**

**WHERE: XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill**

Brisbane-based country artist Will Day is fast making his mark on the Australian music scene.

Known for his powerful vocals, infectious energy and heartfelt storytelling, Will delivers a dynamic live performance that keeps crowds coming back for more.

His debut album Countrified (2021) cemented his reputation as one to watch, and he's since shared the stage with some of the biggest names in the industry including Morgan Evans, Shannon Noll, Diesel and The Black Sorrows.

Will has also 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.

He has recently spent time in Nashville, performing at CMA Fest showcases and writing songs for his next album, due for release in 2026.

Don't miss your chance to see one of Australia's rising country stars live at the Ekka!

## *Ekka's Country Music Showdown*

**WHEN: Saturday 16 August, 9am-12.40pm (Junior) & 1pm-6pm (Open)**

**WHERE: XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill**

Now in its 11th 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 more than \$70,000.

This year's showdown features a stellar line-up of 24 entrants across both the Open and Junior categories, including Jarrad Wrigley who captured hearts on Farmer Wants A Wife this year and Keely Ellen whose emotional performance brought the judges to tears on Australian Idol 2025.

The prize pool includes the prestigious Troy Cassar-Daley Scholarship to the Academy of Country Music in Tamworth; paid gigs at Ekka 2026, Gympie Music Muster and Lefty's Music Hall in Brisbane; music video and website production services; a professional photo shoot; musical gear; interviews and airplay on Kix FM; and more.

It's set to be the biggest and most exciting showdown yet!

## *NEW! Phoenix Rising Rock Cover Band*

**WHEN: Tuesday 12 August, 8pm-11pm**

**WHERE: XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill**

Making their Ekka debut, Phoenix Rising will bring rock classics, party sing-alongs and toe-tapping favourites to the stage - many of which other cover bands often overlook.

This dynamic Gold Coast band delivers a high-energy show packed with hits from Bon Jovi to Dolly Parton, guaranteed to get music lovers of all ages on their feet.

Known for their polished performances and ever-expanding repertoire, Phoenix Rising promises a night of unforgettable energy and crowd-pleasing anthems.

## *Hayley Marsten*

**WHEN: Saturday 16 August, 3pm-6pm**

**WHERE: XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill**

If HAIM and Shania Twain made music together, the result might sound like Hayley Marsten.

Her acclaimed sophomore album Girlhood debuted at #4 on the ARIA Country Charts and has been praised for its dramatic country anthems with a 1970s rock edge.

A Queensland Music Award nominee and rising star, Hayley brings a mix of sass, soul and raw honesty to every performance.

Catch her live and experience the sound of a bold new voice in Australian country music.

## *Folk Musician Alex Crook*

**WHEN: August 8, 11, 12, 14, 15 from 3pm-5.45pm and August 16 from 1pm-2.45pm**

**WHERE: XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill**

Brisbane-based folk-pop singer-songwriter Alex Crook will captivate audiences with emotive melodies and soulful lyrics.

Blending acoustic folk with modern pop influences, his heartfelt sound and introspective storytelling offer a refreshing take on the folk genre.

Don't miss the chance to experience Alex live at the Ekka as he shares songs that speak straight to the soul.

## *NEW! Dee Jaye Bux - DJ Set*

**WHEN: 7.30pm-9pm daily**

**WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage**

Australia's top country music DJ, Dee Jaye Bux, will be spinning every night of Ekka with his signature blend of country and funky remixes.

With more than 23 years of experience, he has worked alongside legends like Jimmy Barnes, John Farnham and Tim McGraw.

Dee Jaye Bux knows how to keep the crowd energized and dancing, creating an unforgettable Hoe-down Honky Tonk atmosphere.

## 2025 Toyota Star Maker Winner: Felicity Kircher

**WHEN:** Saturday 16 August, 12.30pm

**WHERE:** Multicultural Plaza Music Stage

Fresh off a national tour with ARIA Hall of Famer Kasey Chambers, Felicity Kircher is set to shine on stage at the Ekka.

As the 2025 winner of prestigious Toyota Star Maker competition, the 20-year-old alt-country artist is quickly becoming one of Australia's most exciting emerging talents.

Known for her magnetic stage presence, sweet honey vocals and rhythm guitar skills, Felicity will bring her signature blend of traditional country and fresh storytelling to Ekka - captivating audiences with every note.



### *Briana Dinsdale*

**WHEN:** Friday 15 August, 4pm-6.45pm

**WHERE:** Multicultural Plaza Music Stage

Briana Dinsdale is quickly emerging as one of Australian country music's most compelling new voices.

In early 2025, she was named a Top 10 finalist in the Toyota Star Maker competition, following the success of her Top 10 country radio hit Real Time Love.

Briana was also recently announced as a BIGSOUND 2025 artist, continuing her momentum after standout performances at major festivals including Groundwater, Lasso, Gympie Music Muster, Tamworth Country Music Festival – and even Nashville.

Catch this rising star live at the Ekka as she continues to captivate audiences across Australia and beyond.

### *Music on the Move*

**WHEN:** 9.30am-5pm daily

**WHERE:** Gregory Terrace

Marching to the beat once again, Music on the Move brings rhythm and energy to Gregory Terrace every day of Show.

Enjoy performances from 18 local school and community marching bands, plus crowd favourite the Australian Army PEP Band.

New to the lineup this year are the vibrant QAHS Dragon Dance Team and the renowned Brisbane Excelsior Band.