

WHAT'S NEW

Competitions

- Arts and Cookery (Cookery): Live judging of the winner of Queensland's Best Dark Rich Fruit Cake
- Arts and Cookery (Cake Decorating): New buttercream class
- Arts and Cookery (Cake Decorating): 2024 theme is Halloween-style pumpkin
- Arts and Cookery (Cookery): New ABC Radio Brisbane Queensland in a Jar, plus new classes for chocolate caramel slice and raspberry coconut slice
- Arts & Cookery (Natural Fibres Make & Model): 2024 Senior School Class theme is 1980s fashion era
- Arts & Cookery (Natural Fibres Make & Model): 2024 Queensland Ag Shows Adult Recycle and Re-Create class theme is Goth
- Arts & Cookery (Natural Fibres Make & Model): New themes are 1980s fashion era and goth.
- Creative Art and Craft Competition: Teddy Bears now the Teddy Bears and Furry Friends, and China Painting rebranded as Porcelain Art.
- Education on Show: new theme - Our Farmers – Our Future
- Farriers and Blacksmiths: New speed forging class.
- Fleece Breeds (Sheep): 2024 feature breed Suffolk Sheep
- Flower and Garden (Floristry): additional \$1250 in prize money
- Flower and Garden (Floristry): 2024 theme is Australian Bush Catwalk Fashion Show
- Flower and Garden (School Scarecrow Competition): 2024 theme is Waltzing Matilda
- Flower and Garden (Floristry): Dairy Flower Crowns now Dairy Flower Garland
- Horses (Fashions on the Field): New Emerging Designer category
- Horses (Showjumping): Queensland Off-The-Track Program Showcase prize money increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000
- Horse competitions: Gender-based classes have been updated.
 - #192 was Gentlemen riding a gelding; now Rider on Gelding.
 - #193 was Ladies riding a mare; now Mare Riding.
 - #200 was gentlemen riding/hack; now Rider on horse.
 - #201 was Ladies riding/hack mare; now rider/hack mare.
- Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs: Feature breeds Brahma and Cochin (chicken) and Muscovy (duck)
- Wearable Art Competition is now its own competition, separate to Natural Fibres Make & Model with the 2024 theme being Your Imagination.





Daytime Entertainment

New Daytime Entertainment at the Ekka this year includes:

- Dinosaur Train: Join Buddy the T-Rex and his adoptive Pteranodon family as they deliver fun facts about dinosaurs, play games and host a singalong.
- Country Music Showdown presented by Ariat: This year's ultimate search for Queensland's next country music star has a new record prize pool worth more than \$70,000 (increase of more than \$20,000)!
- Roulettes: The Royal Australian Air Force's aerobatic display team.
- Little Pony Roller Race: In this zany show, watch as riders wearing jockey silks and rollerblades roll around the arena while mounted on miniature ponies.

Education

- The Scientist's Kitchen: A look at the science behind the food we eat, and how nutrition affects our health and wellbeing.
- Harvest to Home: A Grain Story: A hands-on experience with grains from milling to making dough.
- G.O.A.T. – Greatest of All Time: Goat-ting around this year's Ekka will be 19 fibreglass, life-sized goats displaying student artworks. The designs and supporting artist direction statement speak to why the students consider their region the Greatest Of All Time.
- Greenhouse Innovators: Students from several schools have taken farming with AgTech to the next level by competing in the Ekka's Greenhouse Innovator Competition where they analyse the effects of different soils, lights, and environments on the monitoring of plant growth and data collection.
- 4B Garden: Learn about the birds and the bees, butterflies and bugs (4B) and, specifically, how to attract them in the 4B Garden. The impressive 14-metre-long self-guided garden will showcase the best types of flowers to plant in your garden to attract bees, along with their animal friends butterflies, bugs and birds.
- Botbuilders Robotics: Build, code and play with robots at this exciting new activation all about robotics.

- Ag Drones: This display will show how drones are used in modern farming from spraying and aerial seeding to mapping.
- UniSQ: University of Southern Queensland leads this eye-opening activation, which shows how technology as powerful as your smart phone can be used in agriculture to identify seed, invasive insects, best practices methods and alerts on crops.

Fashion

Queensland's longest running fashion parade program – 31 years and counting – will for the first time feature a combination of dancers and models in a choreographed presentation of natural fibres fashion from across the state.

This year's program will showcase the journey from fibre to fashion in a stunning Enchanted Garden-themed runway, featuring 14 established and emerging Queensland designers plus a selection of student designs.

The parades pay homage to Queensland-grown fibres in this year's dreamy, nature-based Enchanted Garden theme.

Queensland designers featuring in this year's Natural Fibres Fashion Parades for the very first time include:

- By Sisterly
- Sorority
- Lamington Avenue
- TradeMutt
- Analia the Label
- Silk Laundry
- Hipland
- Cienti
- House of Aya
- Pinkpineapple
- Sacha Drake
- Zijde
- Mannzilo
- Darb Bridal Couture

Food and Beverage

For the first time in our 148-year history all food vendors at the Show will have a special value item plus a food and drink bundle on their menu. The special value menu items offered by more than 110 Ekka food vendors will be \$10 or less, and the food and drink bundles will start from \$7.50.

New food outlets at the Ekka this year include:

- **CocoArt:** Sample Instagram-worthy coconut puddings served up in coconut bowls.
- **Noodle Pimp:** Have your humble noodle box pimped with wonton nachos or skewers of dumplings.
- **Belly Bao:** East meets west when Belly Bao serves up their cheeseburger spring rolls.
- **Meatball Obsession:** Brisbane institution Angelo's Fresh Pasta, which has been serving pasta lovers since 1968, is behind this food venue serving up a mega-sized meatball sub.
- **Fruity Poppin:** Serving glazed fruit, marshmallows and nuggets on a stick, so you can wander and enjoy the Show sights, while getting your fruity, sweet or savoury fix.
- **Ekka Tuck Shop:** Making things more Ekka-nomical in 2024 is the Tuck Shopw, where you can grab savoury snacks on the go for less than \$5.
- **Two Fat Indians:** It's a match made in heaven when Indian cuisine meets deep-fried deliciousness, with their butter chicken loaded fries.
- **HotTwist:** Enjoy their Korean Cheese Coin Cake – a melted cheesy treat in the shape of a giant coin.
- **Dairy King Soft Serve:** It's ice cream with a twist – think decadent Cookie Ice Cream Sandwiches, Ice Cream Burgers and giant soft serves.
- **Royal Bakehouse:** Tea and cakes taken to the next level with award-winning recipes from Cookery Competition contestants.
- **I Love Pasta:** For great Italian food, you can't go pasta the gnocchi, rigatoni, spaghetti and more provided by Sydney Royal Show's gold medal-winning pasta producers Bianco.

New menu items to look out for at this year's Ekka include:

- **Boom Burger:** They're back and this year they're serving up Donut Burgers (meat patty, bacon and cheese between two Krispy Kremes) and Burger Cones – a waffle cone topped with bacon, meat patty and melted cheese.
- **Maddix:** New twisted potato flavours include apple pie, cheezel and vegemite.
- **Xin Chao:** For banh mi buffs, Xin Chao will be serving this up on foot-long baguettes.

Night-time Entertainment

- **Crowd Canvas:** This mind-blowing visual display puts EkkaNITES crowd members in the driver's seat for the show, with guest's phones used to create a moving visual canvas.
- **Ekka Drone Show** presented by Drone Sky Shows: The night sky will provide the perfect canvas for the exciting drone display on People's Day.

- **Cobb & Co. 100 Years Colonial Muster** presented by Dave Manchon: There will be plenty of old-world drama in the Main Arena when bush rangers stage a robbery with cowboy Dave Manchon to the rescue! Also playing a key role in this vision muster is an icon of yester-year, the Cobb & Co. stage coach.
- **Human Cannonball:** Jaws will drop as Australia's only Human Cannonball is fired from the mouth of the giant cannon and soar across the arena to land safely into an airbag.
- **Hovercraft:** Two fully amphibious machines fly into the main arena on a cushion of air.
- **Tania Kernaghan:** Country Music royalty will be gracing the stage every night at this year's Ekka, performing songs both old and new.
- **Dance Cam:** This year Dance Cam will feature much-loved songs from TINA, the Tina Turner Musical.
- **Monster Truck:** SkiTZ for the first time.



Music

- Tania Kernaghan: The four-time Golden Guitar winner country star will be gracing the main arena every night at this year's EkkaNITES, performing songs both old and new.
- Reality Stars: The talented contestants from Channel 7's Australian Idol and The Voice will be showcasing their vocals at the Ekka Gourmet Plaza.
- Sarah Savannah: The 2023 Ekka Country Music Showdown Junior Winner returns for stage time at XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill.
- Beth Lucas: The 2023 Ekka Country Music Showdown Open Winner is behind the microphone once again at XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill stage.
- Cush Ryder: This country rock artist's sound blends New Country with Australian pub-rock on Friday 9 August.
- Hillbilly Goats: The 2022 Australian Folk band of the Year, Golden Fiddle Recipients and four-time "Bluegrass" Golden Guitar finalists will take to the stage.
- West Texas Crude: The award-winning and dynamic four-piece band will play everything from rockabilly to rhythm and blues.
- Luke Combs Tribute Show: Playing all your favourite songs from this country music sensation.
- The Filthy Animals: This ensemble features musicians from some of Australia's most iconic bands including Wolfmother, The Vines, Choirboys and The Badloves.

Rides & Games

- Rides: Coming soon
- Games: Barnyard Buddies, Nitro Smash, Bug Splat and Jellycat Diner

Showbags

- Wizz Fizz Monster Munch Chocolate Bag - \$5
- Mr Beast Feastables Bag - \$15
- Wizz Fizz Super Sour Bag - \$10
- Pokemon Jnr - \$32
- Yummy Gummy - \$6
- NBA Milwaukee Bucks - \$36
- Big Pet Dog Bag - \$20
- InStyle- \$32
- Polly Waffle - \$16
- Disney Wish - \$30
- Ghostbusters - \$20
- Sensory Bag - \$15
- Allkinds Hey Vacay - \$35
- Thomas the Tank Engine - \$32
- Pusheen - \$32
- Creative Junior - \$25
- Snack Lovers - \$10
- Fast and Furious - \$32

