

NIGHT-TIME ENTERTAINMENT

The Main Arena will be lit up in a dazzling display of colour each night with Ekka NITES.

This year's theme of NEON NITES will see Ekka-goers become part of the performance with incredible interactive light displays before being awed by incredible feats and majestic animals.

The NEON NITES program, which invokes an atmosphere of nostalgia, ranges from the jaw-dropping to the awe-inspiring with highlights to include:

- The old-fashioned Human Cannon Ball
- Cobb & Co procession – celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the stage coach that connected the old world with mail and supplies
- Country Music sensation Tania Kernaghan.
- And much more!

*EkkaNITES Program – 6.30pm to 8pm **

6:30pm	Welcome from farmer girl Sammie
6:30pm	National Anthem by Tania Kernaghan
6:35pm	Horse Shoe Shuffle - A Musical Ride presented by Dave Manchon and Tania Kernaghan
6:40pm	Human Cannonball, Warren Brophy
6:45pm	Dance Cam presented by TINA, the Tina Turner Musical
6:50pm	Cobb & Co 100 Years – A Vision Muster
7:15pm	Xtreme Motor Madness: Hovercrafts, Monster Truck, Trackskill's Precision V8 Utes & Aussie FMX 'Riders of the Night'
7:45pm	Neon NITES Fireworks Spectacular
8pm	Meet the EkkaNITES Stars, under the stars

*Times are indicative only and subject to change.





Fireworks Spectacular

Crowd favourite the Ekka Fireworks will light up the sky once more, this year with new pyro effects on the move, to create a visual feast.

Our amazing performers will have 'firework mines' on their vehicles as they move around the Main Arena. Don't forget to look up!

The spectacular display will feature:

- Four colour-changing pillar mines
- Ultrafast colour-changing high luminosity mines
- Waterfall and dahlia bursts.

Performers create a spark

While the Fireworks light up the sky, on the ground Flux performers will dazzle with mesmerising displays involving fire, pyrotechnic, and LED effects.

Flux was born from a mutual love and passion for flow arts, fire and object manipulation, which further developed into a love for pyrotechnics, and producing high-impact visual productions. Flux love to do things mega – and are known nationally for providing incredibly high impact and unique shows, with a sense of style that is distinctively known as their own.

At Ekka 2024 this will involve fire & pyrotechnic spinning, where the large rotating steel frames being manipulated have pyrotechnic effects streaming out. The visual masterpiece is further enhanced by world leading LED effects, utilising props that create visual LED pixel imagery while being spun!

New - 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. Audience members simply download the CrowdCanvas app, open it up and hold up their phone to be part of the bigger picture, with the platform using each phone as a pixel to create large visual canvases – painting the night with sound and light.

The mobile phone platform enables audiences to not only be 'more active' users but become 'fully immersed participants' in the EkkaNITES show with the ability to take the Mexican Wave to the next level or using your phone light to cheer on your favourite competitor!



New - Ekka Country Sky Drone Show presented by Drone Sky Shows

The night sky will provide the perfect canvas for the exciting Ekka Drone Show presented by Drone Sky Shows on People's Day Wednesday 14 August 5:55pm - 6pm.

There will be 200 drones taking to the air above the Brisbane Showgrounds to create brightly coloured, three-dimensional images celebrating the event where the country spirit meets the city heart.

NEW - Peter Jupiter

First Nation's stockman Peter Jupiter will be taking the reins, demonstrating his remarkable connection with horses. Hailing from Doomadgee in North-West Queensland, Peter will be joining Dave Manchon as a lead rider in the Main Arena's night show. As well as being an accomplished horseman, Peter is also a former winner of the King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge.



*NEW - 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!

It will be up to everyone's favourite cowboy Dave Manchon to save the day as the startled horses take flight with the historic stage coach.

Watch the action play out as Manchon charges his steed and leaps onto the horses leading the stage coach to pull up the reins and save the day.

Playing a key role in this vision muster is an icon of yester-year, the Cobb & Co stage coach. 2024 marks the 100 year anniversary since Cobb & Co's final delivery when the motor car took over delivery of mail and cargo.

'The Horseman's Way' photographer



Trackskill Precision V8 Utes

The Precision Driving Team has always been an Ekka crowd favourite and this year we pay tribute to the drivers with a skilful display and drive down memory lane.

Former Ekka Councillor and rally car driver Lloyd Robertson formed the team at the Brisbane Showgrounds for the 1969 Ekka and after 40 successful years, the team disbanded in 2006 with Lloyd retiring.

Re-enacting the iconic Precision Driving Team, four V8s, two Holden and two Ford, will hit the main arena, performing the awe-inspiring driving manoeuvres that were performed by the original team years ago. This includes nose-to-nose driving, handbrake flicks, spins and slides with a time trial challenge between Holden and Ford as the finale.

Taking to the steering wheels behind the powerful engines are some of Australia's leading V8 drivers – Gary Baxter, Michael Baxter, Tim Ramages and Graham Edwards.

As Ekka celebrates the nostalgic traditions of 145 Shows, we are excited to bring precision driving back to where it all began – this is one show to sure stir up childhood memories of the Ekka.

GARY BAXTER

Gary is one of Australia's leading drivers and has been competing in various classes for more than 20 years. He's a two-time Australian ROH Wheels Commodore Cup Champion, having taken out the series in both 1995 and 1996. Gary stunt drives regularly in movies and television commercials, with his resume including Ricky Stanicky starring Zac Efron, Wolf Creek TV (series 1 and 2) and Storm Boy.

TIM RAMAGES

Tim is a professional performance driver and trainer who has worked on movies including Mortal Kombat. He started his career in Gravel Rally (Australian Rally Championship) at a state and national level in the early 1990s, moving onto drifting and competing in the Tarmac Rally. Tim has won many races in the Tarmac Rally and has taken out multiple top five stage times in Gravel Rally.

GRAHAM EDWARDS

Hailing from Townsville, North Queensland, Graham brings with him experience in the V8 Brute Ute series and Trackskill V8 Utes. Having cut his teeth in go karting, with multiple titles from Queensland and across Australia, he now focuses on his role as Lead Instructor for Drift School Australia and instructor for Race X.

MICHAEL BAXTER

Fresh from performing at the Darwin Show, Michael will perform for the first time at the Ekka. He has been performing with the Trackskill team since 2021 and looks to take over the lead reins from his father, Gary one day. Michael is a star in a go kart but loves the big V8 power.

Aussie FMX - 'Riders of the Night'

The Aussie FMX Motocross Team push the limits on what is possible with their heart-stopping, high adrenaline displays. Combining aerial feats with motocross mastery, riders Tom Robinson, Tyler Wakeford and Brodie Carmichael will have your heart in your throat as you watch them fly upside down on their bike, more than 20 metres in the air.

Adding to the visual feast for their Ekka Neon Nites performance, the talented riders will be donning LED suits and LED stripes on their motorbikes, making their feats look even more death-defying!



BRODIE CARMICHAEL

Brodie is Aussie FMX Team Manager a role that follows his achievements of 5th place at the 2017 Nitro World Championships and three-time world record holder. Brodie, will be bringing his signature move the Switch Blade Indy to the Main Arena.

TYLER WAKEFORD

Renowned for having one of the biggest 'whips' in the Freestyle Motocross scene, this Allora local has increased his repertoire of stunts including back flip combos sure to wow audiences.

TOM ROBINSON

Tom Robinson is renowned for inventing the world's first body varial "twist top" stunt while competing at X Fighters Madrid in 2016. He continued to make a name for himself on the international circuit, having taken first place in Japan's Mosh on Dirt competition in 2018, as well as securing consecutive second and third placings for the Pilots Tour Mexico.



Human Cannonball, Warren Brophy

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.

Experienced stunt artist Warren Brophy is one of only a handful of artists in the world to perform this daring stunt, which first debuted at the Ekka back in 1966.

WARREN BROPHY

Seventh-generation circus artist Warren started performing at a young age with his family's circus, Perry Bros, travelling around Australia. Warren was able to learn many different skills including lasso spinning, tightrope, knife throwing, Wheel of Steel and now the death-defying Human Cannonball.

Throughout his 20s, Warren has toured this act at major events around Australia and headlined international shows.

SkiTZ Monster Truck

Experience the booming roar as the Monster Truck thunders into the Main Arena. Enjoy the high-octane entertainment as the Monster Truck revs up the engine and even gets airborne.

Hovercraft

Is it a boat? Is it a plane? No – it is a pair of hovercrafts soaring into the Main Arena!

The Queensland Hovercraft Club, which formed in 1986 will be behind the wheel as two of their fully amphibious machines fly in on a cushion of air. The hovercrafts can reach speeds of up to 100km/hr but will keep the speedometer well under that as they cruise around the arena during the Ekka NITES show.

Tania Kernaghan 4 x CMAA Golden Guitar Country Music Sensation

Country Music royalty will be gracing the stage every night at this year's Ekka, with Tania Kernaghan performing songs both old and new from the National Anthem and other well-loved Australian ballads, to her brand new song Saddle Sisters.

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. Tania will be supported by The Smashing Bumpkins.

Dance Cam

Featuring Songs from Tina Turner presented by TINA, the Tina Turner Musical

If you remember the moves to Nutbush then ready yourself for the Dance Cam which will be scouting the grandstands while Smashing Bumpkins belt out all your favourite Tina Turner tunes. Will you be Simply the Best on Dance Cam?





Meet the Stars Under the Stars

Once the night show action has drawn to a close, the audience can meet their favourite stars. The talented performers will make their way around the edge of the Main Arena, chatting to fans, signing autographs and of course posing for selfies!

The team behind EkkaNITES

JACK ELLISON

2024 celebrates the 10th year of the night show being produced by entertainment extraordinaire Jack Ellison. Jack is a professional athlete turned special events producer who has worked on blockbuster films including James Bond Quantum of Solace and Mission Impossible 2 and is a winner of the prestigious Australian Events Awards.

ASHLEY NEUENDORF

Ashley Neuendorf, Director of High Impact Lighting, has been involved with lighting productions for more than 17 years. He has toured with bands including Boy & Bear, Illy and Amity Affliction. Ash has also done the lighting for sporting events such as the State of Origin Series and Brisbane

Broncos Indigenous round.

This year for the night show, Ash is showcasing an automated follow spot system, along with industry leading beam lights.

LACHLAN MARSH

Lachlan Marsh is a Brisbane based music producer and Broadcast Engineer for Nine Entertainment. His music has been supported by some of the world's biggest electronic acts including Above & Beyond and Don Diablo.

This is Lachlan's third Ekka producing the soundtrack for the Fireworks Spectacular, bringing with him his signature high energy dance music and unique composition skills.

HOWARD & SONS PYROTECHNICS DISPLAYS

Howard & Sons Pyrotechnics, celebrating 102 years of pyrotechnic innovation, are world leaders in pyrotechnics & SFX. They have an international reputation for taking projects into the next league, pushing pyrotechnic boundaries and exceeding audience's expectations. Christian and Andrew Howard represent the fourth generation of the Howard family who have been honoured to work with the Ekka to provide the pyrotechnics and special effects for EkkaNITES.

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Singles Mingle Monday (18+ event)

WHEN: 8.30pm August 12

WHERE: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill

Love is in the air once again at the Ekka. For those looking to find their sweetheart, rejoice as the Singles Mingle Monday event has returned! From cowboys galloping in from the outback to city slickers ready to mingle, all are welcome to see if sparks fly this Ekka.

There will be speed dating facilitated by professional Queensland match makers Social Mingle, bush dancing and live country music by the Smashing Bumpkins, as well as games and prizes. Don't miss your chance to meet that special someone at Singles Mingle Monday at the Ekka.



Ekka's Stand-up Comedy Gala presented by Sit Down Comedy Club (18+ event)

WHEN: 8.30pm August 11

WHERE: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill

Fresh from solo shows at Adelaide Fringe Festival, Lindsay Webb hosts the Ekka's Stand-up Comedy Gala. Webb will be handing the mic to stand-up comics delivering snappy one-liners to hilarious stories and funny home truths. For one night only, comedians Rachael Hornbuckle, Michael Cho, Mandy Nolan and Mick Meredith will have you in hysterics, thanks to The Sit Down Comedy Club, the largest comedy provider of its kind in Australia.

Drag Queen Bingo (18+ event)

WHEN: 8.30pm-11pm August 15

WHERE: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill

This year's Drag Queen Bingo combines fabulous, over-the-top fun with your favourite songs. For one night only, frock up with showgirl Vollie LaVont who will treat Ekka guests to a range of performances, glamorous fashions, and a whole lot of lip-syncing fun. Expect feather boas, high hair, glitter and heels at this one-of-a-kind show, which will see the audience in hysterics. Party on with Vollie and her Queens at a bingo game to remember.

