

DAYTIME ENTERTAINMENT

LOCATION: MAIN STAGE

NEW! Threads of Time: Celebrating 150 Years of Fashion

WHEN: 11.30am, 12.30pm & 1.30pm daily

Fashion, theatre, and 150 years of history will collide in a showstopping, family-friendly celebration of style and storytelling at Threads of Time: Celebrating 150 Years of Fashion.

As part of Ekka's birthday celebrations, the Show's much-loved fashion parade will be reimagined as a dazzling theatrical production, taking audiences on a journey through 150 years of Queensland culture and fashion. From the refined elegance of the 1890s to the cutting edge designs of today, Threads of Time bursts to life through iconic Ekka backdrops, striking costumes, dynamic choreography, awe-inspiring musical direction, and live singing.

Created especially for this milestone year, the traditional runway transforms into an immersive theatrical showcase produced in collaboration with acclaimed Gold Coast company Grayboy Entertainment, known for 30+ years of world-class productions.

At the heart of Threads of Time is a playful time-travel adventure. When a young girl spins the time wheel, audiences will be whisked through fashion's most iconic eras — from the glamour of the 1920s and the bold mod looks of the 1960s, to the neon statement styles of the 1980s and 90s — before landing in the present day, celebrating natural fibres and sustainable fashion designed by emerging designers from Billy Blue College of Design.

Threads of Time is an energetic, accessible, and visually spectacular production, offering audiences of all ages a nostalgic yet forward-looking celebration of the Ekka's enduring legacy. It is presented three times daily across all nine days of Show and promises to be a must-see highlight of Ekka 2026.

Threads of Time Production Team: *Grayboy Production*

Established more than 30 years ago, Burleigh-based Grayboy Productions creates bold, original, high-quality entertainment focussed on storytelling.

Graeme Gillies – Founder & Creative Director

Graeme Gillies is the founder and owner of Grayboy Productions and a highly respected Australian entertainment producer, writer, creative director, and entrepreneur. During his career he has developed and delivered live events, theatre productions, corporate entertainment, cruise ship productions, and large-scale creative experiences.



Scott Ogier – Director, Creative & Business Operations

Scott Ogier has more than 20 years' experience in the entertainment industry and specialises in creative development, production design, visual storytelling and show delivery.



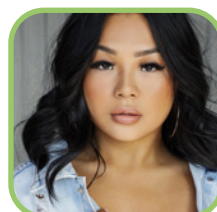
Amanda Talbot De Hoyos – Production & Talent Manager

Amanda Talbot De Hoyos oversees performer management, casting, and event delivery. She works closely with artists, creatives, and production teams to ensure every performance is delivered to the highest standard while creating exceptional audience experiences.



Karin Mochizuki – Choreographer & Creative Consultant

Karin Mochizuki is an accomplished dancer, choreographer and dance educator who specialises in choreography, creative development, and performance direction, bringing a contemporary and energetic approach to every project she undertakes.



NEW! Human Marvels Side Show Circus

WHEN: 2pm, 3pm, 4pm daily

Step right up and get ready to be amazed by the extraordinary feats of the Human Marvels Side Show Circus.

Perfect for the whole family, this high energy production features amazing acts of skill from three larger-than-life performers including international strongman, The Great Gordo Gamsby; the sword-swallowing Space Cowboy; and master contortionist Ruby Rubberlegs.

Recipient of 11 Guinness World Records, Gordo is a master of extreme stunts which combine precision timing, remarkable physical control, and a fearless disregard for personal comfort. From bending steel rods in his teeth and ripping phone books in half, to the infamous "human blockhead" routine, his feats of strength, skill and dexterity push the limits of human endurance.

Another multiple Guinness World Record holder (56 Guinness World Records), the Space Cowboy (Chayne Hultgren) performs a number of jaw dropping acts including sword swallowing, chainsaw juggling on a tall unicycle, blindfolded arrow catching, and standing atop a one-million-volt Tesla coil while shooting lightning from his fingertips. Wild, fearless, and unforgettable, the Space Cowboy delivers a performance that is equal parts danger, skill, and spectacle.

Ruby Rubberlegs (Rani Huszar) presents a delightfully daring contortion routine, bending, twisting, and manipulating her entire body into a tiny see through box which she calls her New York apartment. You won't believe it until you see it, and when you see it, you still won't believe it!

From classic sideshow surprises to modern circus magic, Human Marvels Side Show Circus delivers a daring and different show experience, filled with excitement, fun and unforgettable memories.



NEW! Ekka Dance Eisteddfod

WHEN: 10am, 10.30am, 4.30pm daily

Celebrate an amazing array of talent at the inaugural Ekka Dance Eisteddfod, featuring top performers and standout routines from 24 Queensland dance schools and studios.

The competition celebrates entertainment, showmanship, and performance impact, rather than age based or technical competition. Dancers can perform across a variety of styles including jazz, contemporary, hip hop, lyrical and musical theatre.

The winning school will take home the inaugural Ekka Dance Eisteddfod 2026 Trophy and earn the exciting opportunity to perform live at Dreamworld, alongside a suite of additional prizes and exclusive experiences.

NEW! Joel the Juggler with Eric the Robotic Dog

WHEN: 11am, 12pm, 1pm daily

Joel (Salom) the Juggler will dazzle audiences with jawdropping juggling feats, spinning, tossing, and balancing everything from classic clubs to unexpected everyday objects—with plenty of comedic surprises along the way. Just when you think you’ve seen it all, in rolls Eric: Joel’s lovable and outspoken, high-tech robotic dog who steals the show with his playful personality, clever tricks, and interactive antics.

Together, they deliver a one-of-a-kind performance that blends skill, technology, and humour into a fast-paced, family-friendly spectacle. From synchronised routines to hilarious mishaps (don’t worry—Eric is programmed for fun, not chaos... mostly!), this dynamic duo will keep audiences of all ages captivated from start to finish.

NEW! Farmyard Friends Stage Show

WHEN: 2.30pm and 3.30pm daily

Join us for a delightful adventure when everyone’s favourite farmyard friends take to the stage in a talent quest full of laughs.

Led by Farmer Rhonda McDonald, the energetic cast of characters including Barbara-Ann Streisand the Sheep, Daisy the Cow and Milo the Sheep Dog will bring the spirit of the land to life through dance, comedy, and catchy routines. Together, they’ll have audiences boot scootin, line dancing and laughing along as they showcase their unique talents.

Not only will the show be an absolute hoot, but the kids will also learn interesting agricultural facts along the way. With the farmyard friends’ unique personalities and crazy antics, this is one show the whole family is guaranteed to love.

LOCATION: SHOW RING

Horsing Around presented by Racing Queensland’s Queensland Off-The-Track Program

WHEN: 11am, 2pm & 3pm daily

Join acclaimed horse trainer Dave Manchon at the Horsing Around Show presented by Queensland Off-The-Track.

This engaging and educational show shines a spotlight on the Queensland Off-The-Track program, showcasing the incredible potential of retired racehorses as they transition into new lives beyond the track.

Joined by some well-known off-the-track stars, Dave will share his expert training techniques while demonstrating the incredible versatility, athleticism, and heart of these remarkable horses.

From impressive performances to unforgettable personalities, Horsing Around is a must-see celebration of what’s possible when the pace slows down and a new chapter begins.

Hollywood Hounds with Heidi Mackay

WHEN: 12pm & 1pm daily

Get ready for a paws- itively wonderful show with Heidi Mackay – the Aussie animal

trainer behind some of the country’s most talented four-legged stars!

With more than 30 years of experience, Heidi and her incredible dogs bring the magic of film and TV straight to the Ekka. Watch in amazement as these clever canines showcase their remarkable talents and light up the arena with plenty of flair.

From Hollywood productions like Eden starring Jude Law and Sydney Sweeney to countless television commercials, Heidi’s furry performers are true scene-stealers who know exactly how to entertain a crowd.

At the heart of every unforgettable performance is Heidi’s special bond with her animals — making this a must-see show for animal lovers of all ages

LOCATION: KING STREET

Venomous Snake & Reptile Show with Wildlife Instinct

WHEN: Every 40 minutes from 9.30am. Last show at 4.50pm daily

Get ready for a wild adventure at the Venomous Snake & Reptile Show with Wildlife Instinct!

With expert presenters and easy-to-follow insights, Wildlife Instinct helps visitors of all ages learn more about the natural world while encouraging care for wildlife and the environment.

Come face-to-face with fascinating snakes, giant lizards, turtles, crocodiles, and more in an exciting, hands-on experience for all ages. Watch live demonstrations, meet expert reptile handlers, and discover amazing facts about some of Australia’s most incredible creatures.

Whether you’re a reptile enthusiast or simply curious to learn more, this is one slithering spectacular you won’t want to miss!

LOCATION: AG EDUCATION HALL

NEW! Sand Sculpture Display & Workshops

WHEN: 9am to 6pm daily

Mum and Dad can sit back and relax while the kids become kings and queens of the castle at the Ekka Sand Sculpture Display and Workshops.

Visitors can marvel at spectacular giant sand sculptures, snap a selfie with the incredible creations, and then roll up their sleeves to learn the secrets of sand sculpting in free hands-on workshops led by Australian master sculptors Steve Machell and Tutti Bonacchi.

Created especially for Ekka’s 150th anniversary, the display will

feature a large-scale Ekka 150 logo as the hero centrepiece, alongside agricultural-themed sculptures.

Combining creativity, nature and hands-on fun, this unique attraction celebrates the environment that sustains us while providing a memorable experience for visitors of all ages.

LOCATION: SUSHI HUB CAT PRECINCT

Sheep Shearing Demonstrations

WHEN: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2.30pm & 4pm daily

Experience Australian agriculture brought to life by expert sheep shearer Jonathan and skilled roustabout Mikayla.

Jonathan will demonstrate modern machine and traditional blade shearing, while Mikayla showcases fleece throwing and shares insights into wool handling and grading.

Together, they’ll guide visitors through the shearing process from paddock to product.

Don’t miss this authentic, educational celebration of Australian wool’s heritage and future.

Bush Poetry Live Performances

WHEN: 11.30am & 12.30pm daily (except Sunday 9 August)

Rich with humour, history and the spirit of country life, enjoy Bush Poetry performances throughout the Show.

A number of talented Queensland storytellers and poets will bring the bush to life through lively verse, heartfelt ballads, and classic yarns, captivating audiences with their powerful voices and vivid imagery.

Gather round, settle in, and enjoy an authentic celebration of storytelling and outback tradition.

Stan the Ram, Lizzy the Ewe and the Australian Army

WHEN: 10am to 2pm daily

Stan the Ram and his companion ewe Lizzy are among Queensland’s most beloved agricultural ambassadors. As the official mascots of the Australian Army’s 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, the pair have become familiar faces at the Ekka, delighting generations of visitors while celebrating the significant role sheep and wool have played in Australia’s rural heritage. Stan’s military lineage stretches back more than 50 years, making him one of the nation’s longest serving and most recognisable animal mascots.

Interestingly, Stan VIII (the ram most seen at the Ekka with Lizzy) retired in 2020 and was succeeded by Stan IX, continuing a mascot tradition that has now spanned more than five decades.



ONE DAY ONLY!

BIGGER & BETTER! Ekka's Opening Day Street Parade

WHEN: From 8.30am, Saturday 8 August on Gregory Terrace

Kick off the Ekka with a street celebration like no other! Bring the whole family and line the streets for the official opening of the Ekka with a spectacular Opening Day Street Parade.

This colourful, high-energy procession is your chance to get up close to all your favourite acts and attractions before the gates even open. Expect a parade bursting with excitement, including:

- Animals galore - horses, ponies, chickens, reptiles and more
- Hot Wheels, Aussie FMX, and Flair Riders
- Marching bands and dance groups
- Competition entrants such as Miss Showgirl and woodchoppers
- Ekka's Farmyard Friends
- Giant inflatables including a strawberry sundae, Milo the Sheep Dog, and Barry the Bull.

Plus, plenty more surprises bringing a whole lot of Ekka magic!

LOCATION: XXXX STOCKMEN'S BAR & GRILL

Queensland Armwrestling Championships

WHEN: 10am to 6pm, Saturday 8 August

Witness raw strength and fierce determination as more than 80 men and women go head-to-head in the Australian Armwrestling Federation Queensland Championships.

Celebrating its 10th year at the Ekka, this high-intensity showdown features lightweight, middleweight, and heavyweight classes in a double elimination format, where every match counts.

From world title contenders to husbands and wives squaring off, it's a battle of the biceps like no other.

Get ready – this competition is sure to strong-arm some new fans at this year's Ekka!

Australian Strongman Alliance Invitational

WHEN: 10am to 6pm, Sunday 9 August

Get ready to be amazed as Australia's strongest men and women go head-to-head in the 2026 Australian Strongman Alliance Invitational.

Presented by Valhalla Strength, some of Australia's elite strongmen and strongwomen will compete in a series of brutal strength challenges designed to test power, endurance, and

mental grit. Fans can expect massive lifts, crowd-roaring moments and jaw-dropping feats as competitors push themselves to the absolute limit.

Strongman is one of the world's fastest-growing strength sports, fuelled by the rise of fitness culture, social media and the increasing popularity of inclusive competitions featuring both men's and women's divisions.

Don't miss this jaw-dropping display of raw strength and resilience!

NEW! Beyblade Tournament

WHEN: 4pm to 10pm, Tuesday 11 August

One of the world's most exciting competitive toy phenomena is coming to the Ekka for the very first time, with a live Beyblade Tournament presented by Brisbane gaming icon, Netherworld Arcade. The tournament forms part of a growing "kidult" trend, where nostalgic games, collectibles and hobbies are making a strong comeback.

Originating in Japan in 1999, Beyblade has captivated millions of fans worldwide through its customisable spinning tops, competitive battles, and global tournament scene. Beyblade's mix of skill, strategy and excitement continues to appeal to competitors and spectators alike.

Whether you're a seasoned Blader or just launching your first Bey, the Beyblade Tournament will welcome players of all ages to battle it out in a series of thrilling head-to-head contests.

Ekka's Line Dancing Hoedown

WHEN: 2pm to 6pm, Wednesday 12 August

Kick up your boots and join the party at the Ekka's Line Dancing Hoedown. With social dancing, competition demos, beginner workshops and the thrilling Queensland Club Challenge, there's something for everyone.

More than 80 boot-scootin' instructors, club members, and students from across Queensland will bring the energy and fun — so get ready to dance, laugh and even learn a new step or two!

Brisbane Cloggers

WHEN: 11am to 2pm, Wednesday 12 August

Get ready for toe-tapping fun with the Brisbane Cloggers, a vibrant community dance group celebrating the energetic, percussive style of clogging.

Blending elements of Irish step, tap, and line dancing, they perform upbeat routines to music ranging from pop and hip hop to country, bluegrass, and Latin.

With dancers aged from 8 to 80, they promote confidence, creativity, and community. Don't miss this dynamic celebration of rhythm and movement at the Ekka!

NEW! Business in the Front, Party in the Back – Mulletfest hits the Ekka

WHEN: 1pm to 3pm, Friday 14 August

Get ready Brisbane the ultimate celebration of Australia's most iconic haircut is coming to the Ekka for the very first time.

Ekka's inaugural Mulletfest competition supported by Farm Angels, will see competitors from across the country battle it out for mullet glory in a high-energy showcase of style, confidence, and personality.

Founded by Laura Johnson, Mulletfest has grown from a small-town event in 2018 into a nationwide phenomenon, attracting thousands of competitors and fans while celebrating community, individuality, and Aussie spirit.

Competitors will take to the stage across multiple categories including Everyday, Grubby, Ranga, Vintage, Extreme, International and Junior divisions — all judged on haircut, overall presentation, and stage presence. From sleek and styled to wild and outrageous, "every mullet has a story" and this is your chance to see the best of them all.

If you've got one, show it off. If you don't have one, we'll cut you one. Then throw on your flanno and help make history as the Ekka attempts to gather 3,000 flannos in one place while supporting Australian farming families.

NEW! Flanno for a Farmer – Help break a World Record – by Farm Angels

WHEN: 3pm, Friday 14 August

What's more Australian than a mullet and a flanno? After the action of Mulletfest, Ekka crowds are invited to pull on their flannelette shirts and be part of a world record attempt for the most flannels in one place — all in support of Farm Angels.

This fun and heartwarming initiative celebrates the Aussie spirit while raising awareness for the vital work Farm Angels does supporting farming families in times of hardship.

With the mullet symbolising "business in the front, party in the back," and the flanno representing the heart of rural Australia, the event brings together two true blue icons in one special moment.

Whether you're a farmer, a country local, or simply have a good "flanno," this is your chance to be part of something truly memorable. Every flanno counts. So, wear a flanno, support a farmer and make history!



Keppel Dagwood Dog Eating Competition – Webby Vs the World

WHEN: 12pm to 2pm, Sunday 16 August

Ekka's legendary Keppel Dagwood Dog Eating Competition returns with a special 150th year twist in 2026.

Officially sanctioned by Competitive Eating Australia, the competition will have a new format for Ekka's milestone year, with each competitor given five minutes to eat as many full-sized Keppel Dagwood Dogs as possible.

The new format creates the opportunity to set a brand-new Ekka record for the 150th year, while also allowing a true comparison between what reigning champion J Webby Can Eat can achieve against the rest of the field.

J Webby Can Eat, the reigning Ekka Professional Division champion and one of Australia's most recognised competitive eaters holds one of the event's standout records after eating 20 Dagwood Dogs in just 4 minutes and 15 seconds in 2023. Fresh from another major win in the USA, Webby will return to the Ekka as the man to beat. Webby vs the World gives everyday competitors and professional eaters five minutes to step up and see just how close they can get to Webby and his record.



Ekka Country Music Showdown

WHEN: 9am to 6pm, Saturday 15 August

The search for Queensland's next country music star is back as the 12th Annual Ekka Country Music Showdown takes centre stage in 2026.

Held at the iconic Stocky's, this high-energy competition will see emerging artists perform live in front of a panel of industry professionals, all vying for their chance to share in over \$80,000 in prizes and take the next step in their music careers.

More than just a competition, the Showdown is a proven launchpad into the Australian country music scene, with past winners going on to major national success, including Toyota Star Maker titles and chart-topping careers.

This year's prizes are designed to create real industry pathways, with the Open winner earning a performance on the Queensland Music Trail, while the Junior winner receives a prestigious scholarship to the Academy of Country Music in Tamworth. Both winners gain access to mentoring, recording opportunities and major performance slots.

Country music continues to surge in popularity across Australia, driven by major festivals, regional storytelling and a new generation of artists blending traditional sounds with modern influences.

As part of Ekka's 150th celebrations, the Country Music Showdown continues its proud legacy of discovering, nurturing, and showcasing the stars of tomorrow.



2026 AWP Australian Whipcracking Championships and World Bullock Whip Championships Presented by R.M Williams & Packer Leather

WHEN: 10am to 5pm, Sunday 16 August

LOCATION: Woodchop Arena presented by AAM

Prepare for lightning-fast routines, jaw dropping trick shots and thunderous whip cracks as the nation's best whipcrackers descend on the Ekka for the Australian Whipcracking Titles hosted by the Australian Whipcrackers & Plaiters Association.

More than 40 state champions will compete across multiple divisions including PeeWee, Juvenile, Junior, Ladies, Mens, Over 45s, and the fiercely contested World Bullock Whip Championships.

Watch as the reigning Australian Women's and Men's Champions defend their titles, judged on accuracy, technical prowess, flow, the volume of the crack, and personal presentation.

This high energy event is a true celebration of Australian heritage, craftsmanship, and showmanship—where tradition meets adrenaline and the best in the country compete for national glory.

Official Opening Ceremony

WHEN: 5.30pm, Saturday 8 August

LOCATION: Main Arena

In its 150th year, the Ekka's Official Opening Ceremony, held on the first day of Show to welcome guests from across Queensland, is one special event not to be missed.

Rich in heritage and tradition, the ceremony features a Welcome to Country, the Blessing of the Plough, performances by the Australian Army Band Brisbane, a display by the Queensland Mounted Police, and more.

The 2026 Ekka will be officially opened by the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland.

Grand Parade

WHEN: 1.30pm to 2.15pm, Wednesday 12 August

A wonderful Ekka tradition, the Grand Parade brings the very best of the Show into centre ring.

From the tiniest Grand Champion Fish to the towering Grand Champion Stud Bull, the parade proudly showcases the champions across all competitions including goats, dairy cattle, cats, dogs, horses, horticulture, Showgirl entrants and more.

Steeped in history, the Grand Parade has evolved from early livestock displays, including in 1901 to welcome the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York.

NEW! Hour of Power presented by Horsey People

WHEN: 12.30pm to 1.30pm, Tuesday 11 to Sunday 16 August (excluding Saturday 15 August)

Take a break and enjoy an action-packed lunchtime entertainment show in the Main Arena.

From the wit and wisdom of traditional bush poetry to the skill and precision of Australia's best Ute drivers and their Tribute to the Precision Driving Team, there's something for everyone.

Feel the adrenaline soar as the Aussie FMX riders launch into the sky and perform gravity-defying stunts, then watch in awe as talented sheep dogs and their handlers demonstrate the remarkable partnership that has been at the heart of rural Australia for generations.

Grab a seat, bring your friends and family, and enjoy a lunchtime filled with laughs, thrills, and unforgettable entertainment.

Beaut Ute Competition & Parade

WHEN: Saturday 15 August all day & Sunday 16 August 12:30pm

Calling all Ute enthusiasts! The humble Aussie Ute has been a mainstay on Australian roads for almost a century and this year they return to the Ekka for their very own grand parade. Known as the home of choice for kelpies to toolboxes and much more, the Ekka's Beaut Ute competition pays homage to these souped-up, much-loved machines.

More than 20 Utes and their proud owners will compete across several classes including Street, BnS, 4x4, and Novelty. They will display their utes on Saturday outside of the Large Animal Pavilion, before the owners roar their engines to life and proudly parade around the Main Arena from 12:30 pm on the last day of Ekka, showcasing their vehicles' personality, pride, and true-blue Australian spirit.

RAAF Roulettes

WHEN: 12.20pm, Wednesday 12 August

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Roulettes will soar above the Brisbane Showgrounds on People's Day, thrilling crowds with their high-energy aerobatic display.

Flying the innovative PC-21 aircraft, the full team of six pilots will demonstrate the precision, skill, and teamwork of Air Force pilots – reaching speeds of up to 685 km/h.

A crowd favourite, the Roulettes will be a spectacular highlight on Ekka's most attended day of Show.

