

**2025 THEME  
“SPORTING HEROES”**

**SCHOOL SCARECROW  
COMPETITION**



**FOUNDATION - GRADE 6**

## COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Building a scarecrow offers a creative and engaging learning opportunity for Queensland primary school students.

This activity touches on various curriculum areas such as Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), The Arts, English, Science, and Mathematics, allowing students to explore cultural, environmental, and artistic themes while developing practical skills. This activity fosters creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving while also connecting students to Queensland's agricultural heritage.

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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# 2025 THEME

## “SPORTING HEROES”

This year's Ekka School Scarecrow Competition invites students to celebrate the rich sporting history of the Brisbane Showgrounds, which has hosted numerous sporting events since the 1880's. From cricket matches and rugby league games to car racing, the Ekka grounds have been a hub for athletic excellence. In line with this history, the theme focuses on sports people, encouraging participants to create scarecrows inspired by athletes or sporting moments from past events held at the Showgrounds. Students can let their creativity shine while honouring the legacy of sports in Queensland.

Using a "sporting heroes" theme for a school scarecrow competition aligns with several aspects of the Queensland Primary School Curriculum, particularly in areas related to Health and Physical Education (HPE), The Arts, English, and Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS).



## BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS SPORTING EVENTS HISTORY

Since its establishment in 1875, the Brisbane Showgrounds have hosted various sporting events alongside the annual Ekka. Sports were integrated into the Showgrounds' usage, not only for exhibition purposes but also as a central venue for Brisbane's social and sporting life.

### *Rugby and Cricket*

In the early 20th century, rugby union and cricket were occasionally played at the Showgrounds. The venue's large arena were suitable for these sports, particularly before Brisbane had more specialised stadiums. However, it was the advent of other venues, like the Brisbane Cricket Ground (the Gabba), that drew cricket and rugby away from the Showgrounds in later years.

### *Speedway and Motorcycle Racing*

In the 1920s and 1930s, speedway racing gained popularity at the Brisbane Showgrounds. Motorcycle speedway and car speedway racing drew significant crowds, and the Showgrounds became a hub for motorsports enthusiasts. The speedway circuit was well-known and contributed to Brisbane's reputation for high-octane racing during this period.

### *Boxing and Wrestling*

Boxing and wrestling were also held at the Showgrounds in the early 20th century, particularly during the Great Depression when entertainment options were few and public interest in these sports was high. The large crowds that the Ekka attracted provided an opportunity to schedule boxing and wrestling events in conjunction with the agricultural show.

### *Tennis*

In the 1950s, the Brisbane Showgrounds was home to tennis competitions, including international exhibition matches. This period saw a growing interest in tennis in Australia, and the Showgrounds was a key venue for showcasing tennis talent.

### *Concerts, Music Festivals, and Current Sporting Use*

By the latter half of the 20th century, the Brisbane Showgrounds became less focused on traditional sporting events and more on concerts, music festivals, and other large-scale public events. While specialised sports venues in Brisbane, like Suncorp Stadium and the Gabba have taken over many large sporting events, the Brisbane Showgrounds' contribution to Brisbane's sporting history remains significant. Lesser-known long-standing traditional competitive sports remain a component of the Ekka, with activities like woodchopping competitions, equestrian events and showjumping. These sports form part of the Ekka's broader agricultural and educational mission.





## RUGBY - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS

Rugby has a notable history at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground (RNA Showgrounds), which played an important role in the early development of the sport in Queensland. The Showgrounds was a key venue for rugby union and later rugby league matches in the early 20th century before more specialised rugby venues emerged in the city.

### *Early Use for Rugby Union (1880s–1910s)*

In the late 19th century, rugby union was the dominant code of football in Brisbane, and the Exhibition Ground was one of the major venues for both local club matches and interstate games. As one of the largest and most accessible venues at the time, the Brisbane Exhibition Ground hosted significant rugby union matches, attracting large crowds.

The Exhibition Ground was used for rugby union intercolonial matches (later becoming interstate games) between Queensland and New South Wales. These early matches contributed to the development of rugby union as a key sport in Queensland.

### *Shift to Rugby League (1900s–1920s)*

In 1908, rugby league was introduced to Australia, creating a split from rugby union. The Brisbane Showgrounds became an important venue for the new rugby league code as it began to grow in popularity in Queensland. The sport, which emphasised a more open and faster style of play, began to rival rugby union for dominance.

Some of the earliest rugby league games in Queensland were played at the grounds, including major fixtures involving interstate teams and local clubs.

The 1911–1912 Kangaroo tour to Great Britain was a significant event in the history of Australian rugby league, and the team played an exhibition match at the Brisbane Showgrounds before departing, further cementing the venue's importance in the growth of the sport.

### *1920s–1930s: Growth of Rugby League at the Showgrounds*

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the ground continued to host high-profile rugby league matches, including the prestigious interstate clashes between Queensland and New South Wales. These matches were precursors to what would later become the State of Origin series and drew large crowds to the Brisbane Showgrounds.

In addition to interstate games, the Brisbane Rugby League (BRL) used the ground for its major matches, including grand finals. Local clubs such as Brothers, Souths and Valleys competed for the premiership at the venue, which became a central location for Brisbane's rugby league scene.



## RUGBY - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)

### *Decline as a Rugby Venue (Post-1940s)*

By the mid-20th century, the newly developed Lang Park (now known as Suncorp Stadium) became the preferred venue for rugby league in Brisbane. Lang Park's capacity and suitability for rugby league games led to a decline in the use of the Brisbane Showgrounds for rugby matches.

Despite the shift of regular rugby matches to Lang Park, the ground occasionally hosted rugby-related events, including representative matches and exhibition games.

### *Legacy of Rugby*

Although rugby is no longer played at the Showgrounds, its role in the early development of both rugby union and rugby league in Queensland remains significant. The venue was central to the growth of rugby in the early 20th century, serving as one of Brisbane's key sporting venues before the development of more modern stadiums.

The ground contributed to Brisbane's sporting history, not just through rugby, but through various sports and public events. Its early use for rugby matches helped to solidify rugby league as Queensland's dominant football code.

In summary, the Brisbane Showgrounds played a crucial role in the early history of rugby in Queensland, especially during the formative years of both rugby union and rugby league. While rugby has long since moved to venues like Suncorp Stadium, the Showgrounds was once central to the sport's growth and popularity in Brisbane.





## CRICKET - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS

The Brisbane Showgrounds has a notable history as a venue for cricket, particularly during the early 20th century, before the Brisbane Cricket Ground (the Gabba) became the city's primary cricket venue.

### *Early Use for Cricket (Late 19th Century)*

Cricket has been a popular sport in Brisbane since the late 19th century. The Brisbane Showgrounds became one of the primary venues for first-class cricket matches, especially during the early 20th century. With its large, open area and central location in Bowen Hills, the Showgrounds was well-suited for hosting large crowds for cricket matches.

By the late 19th century, first-class cricket matches, particularly between Queensland and other Australian states, were played at the ground. Queensland's cricket team would play here before the Gabba became the central venue for the sport.

### *International Matches – Don Bradman's Famous 1931 Test Match*

One of the most famous events in the history of cricket at the Brisbane Showgrounds occurred during the 1930–31 Test series between Australia and the West Indies. The 2nd Test match of the series, played from January 1 to 5, 1931, saw Sir Donald Bradman score 223 runs, one of his legendary innings. This Test match remains a significant moment in the history of Australian cricket, as Bradman's performance at the Brisbane Showgrounds cemented his reputation as one of the greatest cricketers of all time.

This Test match was a major milestone for cricket in Queensland. Bradman's incredible score was a highlight, and the match attracted large crowds, showcasing the Showgrounds as a key venue for important cricket events. The ground was one of several venues used for international cricket matches before the Gabba became the dedicated Test match venue.

### *The Shift to the Gabba (Post-1930s)*

By the late 1930s and 1940s, the Brisbane Cricket Ground (the Gabba) became the primary venue for cricket in Queensland, with its development as a purpose-built stadium. The Gabba offered better facilities and infrastructure for hosting international and domestic cricket matches, which led to the gradual decline of the Brisbane Showgrounds as a cricket venue.

Despite the shift to the Gabba, the ground was still used occasionally for cricket matches, especially for special events or when the Gabba was unavailable. However, its role in Queensland cricket gradually diminished as the Gabba rose to prominence.



## CRICKET - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)

### *Cricket and the Ekka*

During the annual Royal Queensland Show (Ekka), cricket matches were sometimes played at the ground as part of the entertainment offerings. These matches were often exhibition or friendly games that complemented the broader activities of the Ekka.

The Brisbane Showgrounds' role in cricket, even when it became secondary to the Gabba, reflected the Showgrounds importance as a central venue for major public events in Brisbane, blending sports with the cultural and social life of the city.

### *Legacy of Cricket at the Brisbane Showgrounds*

After the 1930s, cricket in Brisbane increasingly shifted to the Gabba, which eventually became the main venue for cricket in Queensland. However, Bradman's innings at the ground remains a notable event in the ground's sporting history.

The Brisbane Showground's role in hosting Queensland's first-class cricket matches in the early 20th century was crucial in developing the sport in the state. It provided a venue for Queensland's early intercolonial and interstate matches, helping establish the state's cricket identity.

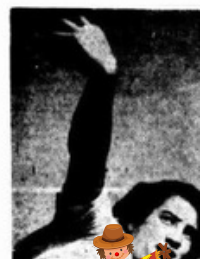
The Brisbane Showgrounds played a significant role in the early years of cricket in Queensland. As one of the main venues for first-class and international matches before the rise of the Gabba, it was instrumental in establishing cricket as a major sport in the state.

The 1931 Test match featuring Donald Bradman remains the most enduring memory of cricket at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground. Bradman's 223-run innings is celebrated as one of his many masterful performances, and it has become a key part of both Queensland and Australian cricket folklore.

Although the ground no longer hosts top-level cricket, its role in the early development of the sport in Queensland has left a lasting mark on Queensland's sporting history.



**FIRST WOMEN'S "TEST"**  
**WILL MAKE CRICKET HISTORY TO-DAY**  
**Australia's Chances of Victory Bright**  
**TOSS MAY BE VITAL FACTOR**  
By CARLIE HANSEN





## **SPEEDWAY & MOTORCYCLE RACING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS**

Speedway and motorcycle racing have a rich history at the Brisbane Showgrounds, where these motorsports became an exciting and popular attraction in the early to mid-20th century. The Showgrounds played a pivotal role in bringing speedway racing to prominence in Brisbane and Queensland, with its large arena providing an ideal setting for thrilling, high-speed events.

### *The Introduction of Speedway Racing (1920s)*

Speedway racing, particularly motorcycle speedway, was introduced to Australia in the 1920s, and the ground quickly became a key venue for these events in Queensland. The sport involved short, intense races on oval dirt tracks, with motorcyclists racing at high speeds, often sliding sideways around corners.

The first speedway event at the Brisbane Showground took place in 1926, marking the beginning of what would become a long and celebrated tradition of motorsport at the venue. The event attracted a large crowd, and the popularity of speedway racing grew rapidly in the years that followed.

### *The Golden Era of Speedway Racing (1930s–1950s)*

By the 1930s, the Brisbane Showgrounds had firmly established itself as a major venue for speedway racing in Australia. It hosted regular events during the summer months, drawing thousands of spectators. Riders from across the country, as well as international competitors, raced at the Showgrounds, making it a hub of speedway competition.

Some of the most famous speedway riders of the era competed at the ground. International riders from the UK, New Zealand, and the United States frequently raced at the venue, adding to its prestige. Riders like Bluey Wilkinson, Lionel Van Praag, and Vic Huxley, who became world champions or major figures in speedway history, were regulars at the ground.

In addition to motorcycle speedway, the Brisbane Showgrounds also hosted bicycle speedway events during this era. These races, where cyclists competed on the same dirt tracks, were part of the broader appeal of speedway racing at the venue.

### *Post-War Speedway Boom (1940s–1950s)*

After a brief lull during World War II, speedway racing at the Brisbane Showgrounds experienced a resurgence in the post-war years. The excitement and action of the races provided much-needed entertainment for Brisbane residents during this time. The 1940s and 1950s are often seen as the golden years of speedway racing at the venue, with packed grandstands and frequent high-profile events.



## **SPEEDWAY & MOTORCYCLE RACING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)**

During the 1950s, speedway became more organised, and teams such as the Brisbane Bandits began competing at the ground. These teams fostered a sense of local pride, and rivalries with teams from other cities added to the excitement.

Another popular form of motorsport at the Brisbane Showgrounds during this period was sidecar racing, where motorcycles with sidecars raced on the dirt track. This form of racing was known for its unique challenges and added an extra element of danger and excitement.

### ***Car Speedway Racing***

While motorcycle speedway was the dominant form of racing at the Brisbane Showground, midget car racing (or speed cars) also became a significant attraction. These small, high-powered cars raced on the same oval track, providing fast-paced action for fans. Midget car racing became especially popular in the 1940s and 1950s, and the Showgrounds was one of Queensland's premier venues for this sport.

Garnett "Garney" Laffan was a notable figure in speedcar racing at the Brisbane Exhibition Speedway (Ekka), particularly during the 1950s and 1960s. He made a significant impact by innovating the three-quarter speedcar, which revolutionised the sport by providing a smaller, more agile vehicle that enhanced racing performance. Laffan's involvement helped cement the Brisbane Showgrounds as a major venue for speedcar championships, hosting both local and international events. His contributions are remembered as pivotal in advancing Australian speedway racing during this era.

Later, hot rod racing and other car-based motorsports were introduced at the ground. These events attracted large crowds and became part of the broader motorsport offering at the Showgrounds during the mid-20th century.

### ***Decline in the 1960s-1970s***

By the 1960s and 1970s, the popularity of speedway racing at the Brisbane Showgrounds began to decline. New, purpose-built venues for motorsports emerged, such as the Archerfield Speedway in Brisbane. These new tracks were designed specifically for motorsport and offered more modern facilities, which led to a gradual shift away from the Exhibition Ground as the primary venue for speedway racing.





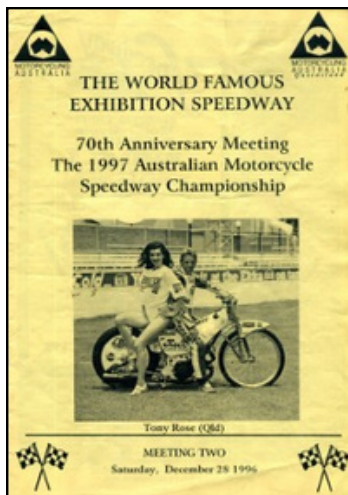
## SPEEDWAY & MOTORCYCLE RACING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)

Although speedway continued to be held at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground into the 1970s, its heyday had passed. The venue's role as a premier motorsport location diminished as other sports and events took over. However, for several decades, the Showgrounds was the heart of speedway and motorcycle racing in Brisbane.

### *Legacy of Speedway Racing at the Brisbane Showgrounds*

Speedway and motorcycle racing at the Brisbane Showground played a crucial role in the history of speedway and motorcycle racing in Queensland and was integral to the cultural and sporting life of Brisbane from its early introduction in the 1920s to its golden years during the mid-20th century. The Showgrounds hosted some of the most thrilling and competitive speedway events in Australia. The high-speed action, intense competition, and daring riders made speedway one of the most popular spectator sports of the time, and the Showgrounds were central to this motorsport culture.

The success of speedway racing at the ground helped to establish Queensland as a major centre for motorsport in Australia. It played a key role in popularising speedway and motorcycle racing, influencing future generations of racers and motorsport enthusiasts. The venue's large crowds and international competitors made it a key location for motorsports in Brisbane. While speedway eventually moved to other venues, the legacy of these races remains an important part of Queensland's sporting history.



## BOXING AND WRESTLING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS

Boxing and wrestling have a significant history at the Brisbane Showgrounds, especially in the early to mid-20th century. These combat sports were an integral part of Brisbane's entertainment and sporting scene, drawing large crowds to the venue during periods when professional sports were emerging as key forms of public entertainment.

### *Early Popularity of Boxing (1920s–1930s)*

By the 1920s, boxing had become a widely popular sport in Australia, and the ground quickly became a key venue for both amateur and professional boxing matches. The sport's appeal lay in its raw physicality, its association with toughness, and its ability to draw large crowds for major events.

The Brisbane Showground hosted many important boxing matches during the 1920s and 1930s, featuring both local and international fighters. During this time, boxing matches at the Showgrounds were often held in conjunction with other events, such as Ekka, capitalising on the large crowds already attending.

Many of Queensland's top boxers fought at the Brisbane Showgrounds, and the venue also hosted international fighters, making it a major stop for touring boxers. These events contributed to the growth of boxing as a professional sport in Queensland.

### *Wrestling's Emergence (1930s–1950s)*

Alongside boxing, professional wrestling gained popularity at the Brisbane Showgrounds during the 1930s. The sport, characterised by its theatricality and physical intensity, attracted large crowds. Wrestling matches at the Showgrounds were often billed as major public spectacles, combining athleticism with drama.

Wrestlers from around the world competed at the ground, further boosting its status as a premier wrestling venue. Famous wrestlers from the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries travelled to Brisbane to take part in highly publicized matches, helping to build the sport's following in Australia.

During this era, it was not uncommon for events at the Brisbane Showgrounds to feature both boxing and wrestling matches, appealing to fans of combat sports more broadly. This fusion of sports created a diverse and exciting lineup for attendees.



## **BOXING AND WRESTLING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)**

### *Post-War Era Boxing and Wrestling (1940s-1950s)*

After World War II, both boxing and wrestling continued to thrive at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground. The post-war era saw a surge in public interest in sports and entertainment, with large crowds flocking to events that offered a release from the pressures of wartime life. Combat sports, with their competitive and dramatic nature, were particularly popular.

During the 1950s, professional wrestling at the ground became even more theatrical, resembling the early days of what would later evolve into modern 'sports entertainment'. Promoters often crafted elaborate storylines around wrestlers, turning matches into narrative-driven spectacles that blended sport with entertainment.

Boxing at the Showgrounds continued to attract top talent, with many state and national championship bouts being held at the venue. These events contributed to the development of Australian boxing and produced some of the sport's early stars.

### *Transition and Decline (1960s-1970s)*

By the 1960s and 1970s, the popularity of both boxing and wrestling at the Brisbane Showgrounds began to decline, as newer, more modern venues emerged in Brisbane. Venues like Festival Hall became the go-to locations for large-scale boxing and wrestling events, offering better facilities and purpose-built arenas.

Despite the decline, the ground remained a historically significant venue for both sports, having played a major role in the development of professional boxing and wrestling in Queensland during their heyday in the early and mid-20th century.

### *Legacy of Boxing and Wrestling at the Brisbane Showgrounds*

The Brisbane Showgrounds is remembered as a key venue for boxing and wrestling during a period when both sports were at the height of their popularity in Queensland. It was a place where local fighters could make their names and where international stars came to showcase their skills.

The popularity of boxing and wrestling at the Showgrounds reflected broader social trends, including the growing appetite for competitive sports and live entertainment. These events helped build a sporting culture in Brisbane that valued physicality, competition, and spectacle.

The Showgrounds' contribution to boxing and wrestling is part of Queensland's rich sporting heritage. It was a venue where early professional sports were developed and where many athletes earned their reputations, both in Australia and on the international stage.





## TENNIS - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS

The history of tennis at the Brisbane Showground is an intriguing part of the venue's diverse sporting legacy. Although the Showgrounds are more famously known for hosting large-scale events like the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka), speedway, and rugby, tennis was also a significant part of its history, particularly in the early and mid-20th century. The ground became an important site for major tennis competitions, attracting local, national, and international players.

### *Early Tennis at the Brisbane Showgrounds (1910s–1920s)*

Tennis gained popularity in Brisbane and across Australia in the early 20th century. The Exhibition Ground, with its ample space and existing sporting infrastructure, became a venue capable of hosting large tennis events. By the 1910s and 1920s, tennis courts were established at the Showgrounds, allowing for regular competitions and exhibitions to be held.

During this period, local tennis clubs and associations used the Brisbane Showground for tournaments. The courts provided a competitive environment for both amateur and professional players, and tennis began to emerge as a sport for both entertainment and social engagement.

### *Mid-20th Century Tennis at the Showgrounds (1940s–1960s)*

In the mid-20th century, the Brisbane Showground was known for hosting exhibition matches, where both national and international tennis stars competed. These matches often attracted large crowds, like other high-profile events at the Showgrounds.

During the 1950s and 1960s, some of Australia's greatest tennis players, including famous names like Rod Laver and Ken Rosewall, competed in exhibition matches at the Showground. These players were part of the golden era of Australian tennis, and their appearances at the Showgrounds helped to boost the sport's popularity in Queensland.

For some time, the ground also served as a venue for Queensland state championships and other major tournaments. These events helped establish the Showgrounds as an important tennis venue in Brisbane before more specialised tennis facilities, like the Queensland Tennis Centre, were built.



## TENNIS - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)

### *Decline of Tennis at the Ground*

By the 1970s, the role of the Brisbane Showground as a major venue for tennis began to decline. This was largely due to the development of more specialised tennis venues that could better accommodate the sport's growing professional standards. Facilities like the Milton Tennis Centre became the primary venue for tennis in Brisbane, eventually followed by the Queensland Tennis Centre, which now hosts the Brisbane International.

As tennis moved to more modern venues, the ground continued to focus on its role as a multipurpose venue for events like the Ekka, motorsports, and rugby, reducing the focus on tennis.

### *Legacy of Tennis at the Ground*

Although tennis is no longer played at the Brisbane Showgrounds, its role in the development of tennis in Queensland remains significant. The venue hosted important matches during a time when tennis was gaining popularity in Australia, and it played a part in the careers of some of the nation's most celebrated players.

The Brisbane Showground's involvement with tennis is a testament to its versatility as a sporting venue. Tennis contributed to the broader sporting culture in Queensland, offering a platform for competition, social engagement, and athletic excellence.

During the 1950s and 1960s, when Australia was dominating international tennis, the Brisbane Showgrounds was a local hub for the sport, allowing Queenslanders to witness the talents of players who would go on to become international tennis legends.



## BASEBALL - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS

Baseball at the Brisbane Showgrounds has a notable history, especially linked to the Brisbane Bandits, one of the original professional baseball teams in the Australian Baseball League (ABL). The Bandits used the ground as their home venue during the early seasons of the ABL, starting in the 1989–1990 season when the league was first launched. The Showgrounds provided an accessible location for fans, and the Bandits' presence helped to popularise baseball in Queensland.

The ground hosted the Bandits' home games until the mid-1990s, after which the team moved to Holloway Field in Newmarket, which remains their current home stadium.

The team's early years at the Brisbane Showgrounds played a critical role in introducing professional baseball to Brisbane during the ABL's formative years and in establishing a fan base in Queensland. The ground was critical in introducing and growing baseball as a spectator sport in Queensland, providing the Bandits with a well-known venue capable of hosting large crowds. The games attracted a diverse crowd, with the venue being a well-known location for sports and entertainment. This association with a prominent Brisbane landmark contributed to the team's early visibility and helped build their fan base.

### *Key Milestones:*

1989–1990: Brisbane Bandits play their first ABL season at the ground.

Mid-1990s: The Bandits move from the Brisbane Showground to Holloway Field.

2010: The Bandits returned to the grounds for one season.

### *Baseball and the Ekka*

During the Bandits' time at the ground, the venue's connection to the annual Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) gave the games added visibility. Baseball at the Showgrounds is remembered fondly as a key part of Queensland's sporting landscape.





## SOCCER - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS

Soccer was played at the Brisbane Showgrounds during the early to mid-20th century, particularly in the 1920s to the 1960s. During this period, Brisbane lacked dedicated soccer-specific venues, so the ground became an important site for both local and international matches. Notably, matches between state teams and touring international sides were held here, contributing to the growth of soccer in Queensland.

As soccer gained popularity and Brisbane's sporting infrastructure developed, dedicated soccer venues like Lang Park (Suncorp Stadium) and Perry Park were established. By the late 1960s, soccer matches gradually transitioned to these specialised venues, marking the decline of soccer at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

### *Key Dates:*

1920s–1960s: Soccer matches played at the ground, including international fixtures and domestic competitions.

Late 1960s: Transition of soccer events to purpose-built venues like Lang Park and Perry Park.

The Brisbane Showgrounds played a significant role in hosting large-scale soccer events during this period, contributing to the development of the sport in Brisbane before more modern venues took over.



## WOODCHOP COMPETITIONS - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS

Woodchopping competitions have a long and storied history at the Brisbane Showgrounds, particularly in association with the annual Royal Queensland Show (Ekka). Woodchopping, which has deep roots in Australian and New Zealand culture, is one of the most popular traditional sporting events at the Ekka.

Woodchopping competitions have been a core part of the Ekka for more than a century. What began as a demonstration of practical timber-working skills has evolved into a highly competitive and professionalised sport, attracting local, national, and international competitors.

### *Early Beginnings of Woodchopping at the Ekka (1890s-1920s)*

Woodchopping competitions were introduced to the Royal Queensland Show in the late 1890s. It quickly became one of the highlights of the event due to the skill and strength displayed by competitors. The event has its roots in the Australian timber industry, where chopping and sawing were essential skills for survival in the bush.

The first official woodchopping event at the Ekka took place in 1899, and it has been a regular feature of the event ever since. Early competitions involved local timber workers and farmers who participated to showcase their prowess and strength in front of large crowds.

### *Growth and Popularity (1930s-1950s)*

By the 1930s, woodchopping had grown into a major spectator event at the Ekka. Competitors from across Queensland, Australia, and New Zealand began to participate in the competition, which was held at the Brisbane Showground's Main Arena. Crowds were drawn to the fierce but friendly competition, where axemen and sawyers demonstrated incredible speed and skill.

The 1940s and 1950s saw the woodchopping competitions at the ground gain national and international recognition. Competitors from New Zealand and other Australian states regularly attended the event, making it one of the most prestigious woodchopping competitions in the country. New Zealand and Australia have a long-standing rivalry in the sport, which added excitement to the contests at the Ekka.



## WOODCHOP COMPETITIONS - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)

### *Post-War Era Expansion and Professionalisation (1960s-1980s)*

During the 1960s and 1970s, woodchopping at the Ekka became more professionalized, with prize money and sponsorships attracting a higher calibre of competitors. The Showgrounds became known as a key venue for woodchopping, and the Ekka was recognised as one of the major stops on the woodchopping circuit.

In addition to traditional events like standing block and underhand chopping, other woodchopping events such as tree-felling and crosscut sawing competitions were added. These events highlighted the different skills required in the timber industry and allowed for a greater diversity of competitors.

### *Modern Era and International Competitions (1990s-Present)*

By the 1990s, the Ekka's woodchopping competitions were attracting competitors from all over the world, including New Zealand, Canada, and the United States. The event continued to showcase the sport's traditional roots while embracing modern innovations in equipment and training.

In more recent decades, women have increasingly participated in woodchopping competitions at the Ekka, reflecting the growing diversity of the sport. This inclusion has expanded the appeal of woodchopping to a broader audience.

Today, woodchopping remains one of the most popular and iconic events at the Ekka. Each year, the Brisbane Showgrounds hosts a variety of woodchopping competitions, including traditional events like the Standing Block, Underhand Chop, Tree Felling, and Crosscut Sawing. It is a must-see attraction for visitors to the Ekka, drawing large crowds to watch elite competitors battle it out for prestigious titles.

### *Woodchopping Competitions and Cultural Heritage*

Woodchopping at the Ekka is not just a sporting event but also a celebration of rural Australian heritage. The competition highlights the skills that were once essential for survival in the bush and the timber industry. It is a reminder of Queensland's history of forestry and the importance of timber workers in the development of the state.

The competition has become a multi-generational sport, with families often participating in the sport for decades. This tradition of passing down woodchopping skills from generation to generation has helped to maintain its popularity and cultural significance at the Ekka.





## WOODCHOP COMPETITIONS - BRISBANE EXHIBITION GROUND (CONT.)

### *The Ekka Woodchop Arena*

The Woodchop Arena at the Brisbane Showgrounds hosts woodchopping competitions and provides a perfect viewing area for spectators to see the action up close and has been home to some of the most memorable woodchopping moments in Australian history. The legacy of woodchopping at the Brisbane Showgrounds continues to thrive, combining fierce competition with a deep respect for the traditional skills that helped shape Queensland's history. Today, woodchopping remains one of the most popular and enduring events at the Ekka, drawing large crowds and celebrating Queensland's rural heritage and timber industry traditions.



## **EQUESTRIAN EVENTS AND SHOWJUMPING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS**

Equestrian events and showjumping have a long and distinguished history at the Brisbane Showgrounds, primarily as part of the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka). These events have been a central feature of the Ekka since its inception, showcasing the skills of horse riders and the versatility of horses in various disciplines. Equestrian competitions, including show jumping, are among the most prestigious and traditional events held at the ground.

### ***Early Equestrian Events (Late 1800s–Early 1900s)***

Equestrian events were part of the earliest versions of the Ekka, which started in 1876. As an agricultural show, the Ekka was a platform to display not only livestock but also the skills and abilities of horses used for farming, transportation, and recreation.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, horses played a vital role in Queensland’s agricultural industry, particularly in farming and transportation. Equestrian events at the ground reflected this importance, featuring competitions in horsemanship, harness classes, and other events that demonstrated the utility and versatility of horses.

Showjumping, which involves horses and riders negotiating a series of obstacles, began gaining popularity in the early 20th century. It became a key attraction at the Ekka, allowing riders to showcase their skill in navigating courses with precision and speed.

### ***Growth of Showjumping (1920s–1950s)***

By the 1920s, showjumping had become one of the most prestigious events at the Ekka. Riders from across Queensland and Australia, as well as international competitors, began participating in these events, making it a focal point of the Ekka’s equestrian program.

The 1930s to 1950s saw the inclusion of more competitors from other Australian states and internationally. This added to the prestige of the event, with riders competing for coveted prizes and titles at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

During this period, the Ekka expanded its equestrian events to include not only showjumping but also other equestrian disciplines like dressage, eventing, and harness driving. These events reflected the growing diversity of equestrian sports in Queensland and Australia.



## EQUESTRIAN EVENTS AND SHOW JUMPING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUND (CONT.)

### *The Peak of Equestrian Events (1960s–1980s)*

Equestrian events continued to be a cornerstone of the Ekka through the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. Showjumping was seen as a test of both horse and rider, combining athleticism, strategy, and skill. Riders from all over Australia and international competitors would gather at the Brisbane Showgrounds for these competitions.

During this time, equestrian sports became more professionalised, with increasing sponsorship and prize money attracting top-tier competitors. The competitions gained further national recognition, becoming an important part of Queensland's sporting calendar.

Several top Australian riders, including those who would later compete in the Olympics, participated in showjumping and equestrian events at the Brisbane Showground. The Ekka became a venue for riders to demonstrate their skills before national and international audiences.

### *Modern Equestrian Competitions (1990s–Present)*

Equestrian events, including showjumping, remain a key part of the Royal Queensland Show today. They continue to attract a wide range of competitors, from local riders to international equestrians, with the event recognised for maintaining high standards in the sport.

Today, the Ekka features a wide array of equestrian disciplines beyond showjumping, including dressage, eventing, and harness classes. These events highlight the versatility of the horse and the skills of Queensland's equestrian community.

In recent years, the Ekka has placed a growing emphasis on youth participation, with events designed for young riders and up-and-coming equestrians. This has helped foster the next generation of riders and ensures that the tradition of equestrian competition at the Brisbane Showground continues to thrive.

The Grand Parade, which features prize-winning animals and champion horses, has been a beloved tradition at the Ekka for over a century. It is a highlight of the event, showcasing the best livestock and horses alongside the top riders and handlers.





## EQUESTRIAN EVENTS AND SHOW JUMPING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)

The Brisbane Showgrounds features a main arena to host large-scale equestrian events. The size and layout of the arena allow for showjumping courses and other equestrian disciplines to be held in front of thousands of spectators.

The Ekka's showjumping competitions involve complex courses, with jumps set at varying heights and difficulties. The course designers create challenging yet fair tests for riders and horses, ensuring that the competition remains thrilling and competitive for participants and spectators alike.

The Ekka's equestrian events, particularly showjumping, follow international standards, allowing Australian riders to compete at the highest level and prepare for global competitions like the Olympics and World Equestrian Games.

### *Cultural and Historical Significance*

Equestrian events at the Ekka are not only about competition but also a celebration of Queensland's long-standing relationship with horses. From their role in agriculture and transportation to their use in sports and recreation, horses have been integral to the development of the state.

The equestrian competitions at the Ekka often involve families who have participated in the sport for generations. This multi-generational participation helps maintain the tradition of equestrian events at the Brisbane Showgrounds and fosters a strong sense of community.



## **HARNES RACING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS**

Harness racing has a long and rich history at the Brisbane Showgrounds, where it played a significant role in Queensland's sporting and entertainment culture, particularly during the early to mid-20th century. Harness racing, also known as trotting or pacing, involves horses pulling a two-wheeled cart (called a sulky) driven by a jockey. The sport was a popular form of entertainment at the Brisbane Showgrounds and contributed to the development of harness racing in Queensland.

### *Early Beginnings of Harness Racing at the Brisbane Showgrounds (1880s–1900s)*

Harness racing at the Brisbane Showgrounds likely started in the late 19th century, coinciding with the growing popularity of harness racing across Australia. The Brisbane Showgrounds, which opened in 1876, provided an ideal venue for the sport due to its large, open space and ability to accommodate crowds.

Harness Racing in Queensland: During the late 1800s, horses were a central part of everyday life in Queensland, and horse racing, including harness racing, became popular forms of public entertainment. Early races were often held as part of agricultural shows or other public events, where they attracted large crowds of spectators.

### *Growth in Popularity (1920s–1940s)*

The 1920s and 1930s are considered the golden era of harness racing at the Brisbane Showgrounds. During this time, the sport became one of the most popular forms of entertainment in Queensland, with regular race meetings attracting large crowds. Races were often held in the evening under lights, creating a festive atmosphere.

The races featured both local and interstate competitors, with top horses and drivers traveling to Brisbane to compete. The grounds became a key venue in the Queensland harness racing calendar, offering prestigious titles and prizes.

Harness racing events were often held in conjunction with the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka), adding to the festive nature of the event. The races were a major attraction, with large numbers of show attendees gathering to watch the thrilling competitions.



**HARNESS RACING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)*****Harness Racing During World War II***

Despite the challenges of World War II, harness racing continued to be held at the Brisbane Showgrounds. The sport provided a welcome distraction from the hardships of the war and allowed people to come together for entertainment. However, like many other sports, harness racing faced restrictions during the war years due to resource shortages and other logistical difficulties.

***Post-War Boom and the Rise of Professional Racing (1940s-1960s)***

Following World War II, harness racing experienced a resurgence in popularity, with regular race meetings continuing at the ground. The post-war era saw the development of professional racing, with more organized race meetings, larger prize pools, and increased media coverage.

Evening race meetings at the Brisbane Showgrounds became a popular social activity, with many attendees placing bets on the races.

The Brisbane Showgrounds hosted some of Queensland's best-known harness racing drivers and horses during this time. Drivers such as Bob Honan and horses like Lucky Creed and Queensland Champ became household names, attracting large crowds to the Exhibition Ground.

***Transition to Albion Park (1970s)***

By the 1970s, the Brisbane Exhibition Ground's role as the main venue for harness racing began to decline. This was due in part to the development of Albion Park Raceway, which became the new home for harness racing in Brisbane. Albion Park offered more modern facilities specifically designed for racing, which made it a more suitable venue for both spectators and competitors.

As the focus shifted to Albion Park, the number of harness racing events held at the Brisbane Showgrounds decreased. Eventually, the last harness races at the Showgrounds took place, marking the end of an era for the sport at this historic venue.



## **HARNES RACING - BRISBANE SHOWGROUNDS (CONT.)**

### *Legacy of Harness Racing at the Showgrounds*

Harness racing at the Brisbane Showgrounds played a crucial role in Queensland's sporting culture for many decades. It was a social event that brought together people from all walks of life, with races serving as both entertainment and a celebration of the skill and training involved in the sport.

The Exhibition Ground helped establish harness racing as a major sport in Queensland. The venue's role in hosting high-profile races contributed to the growth of the sport and set the stage for the development of other racing venues, including Albion Park.

Beyond the competition itself, harness racing at the Brisbane Showgrounds fostered community interaction. Evening races were social occasions, with families, friends, and punters gathering to enjoy the excitement, often as part of the Ekka's larger celebrations.





## FAMOUS QUEENSLAND WOMEN IN SPORT

Here are some notable Queensland women in sport across various disciplines:

### *Rugby Union - Lauren Brown*

Lauren Brown is a current rugby player representing Queensland in the NRL Women's Premiership. She plays for the Brisbane Broncos and has also represented Queensland in the State of Origin series. Known for her versatility, Brown plays both in the backline and at hooker, contributing significantly to her team's success. Her performances at the elite level have made her one of Queensland's prominent female rugby league players, showcasing her skills in both attack and defence.

### *Rugby League - Karyn Murphy*

Karyn Murphy is a former Australian rugby league player who captained the Australian Jillaroos and played a key role in the development of women's rugby league. Born in Queensland, Murphy had a distinguished career as a halfback, leading the Jillaroos to multiple victories in international competitions, including World Cups. Known for her leadership, skill, and tactical intelligence, Murphy is one of the most respected figures in women's rugby league. After retiring, she transitioned into coaching and development roles, continuing to contribute to the sport.

### *Cricket - Julia Price*

Julia Price is a former Australian cricketer who played as a wicketkeeper for both Queensland and the Australian national women's cricket team. She had an outstanding career, representing Australia in 10 Test matches and 84 One Day Internationals (ODIs) from 1996 to 2005. Price is highly regarded for her wicketkeeping skills and leadership on the field. After her playing career, she transitioned into coaching and became the first woman to coach a professional men's cricket team, when she joined the Brisbane Heat in the Big Bash League.

### *Tennis - Samantha Stosur*

Samantha Stosur was born in Brisbane, Queensland, Stosur has had a successful career, notably winning the US Open in 2011 and reaching the finals of the French Open in 2010. She has also been highly successful in doubles, winning multiple Grand Slam titles, including Australian Open and Wimbledon doubles championships. Stosur is known for her powerful serve and groundstrokes, and she has been a long-time representative of Australian tennis on the international stage.



**FAMOUS QUEENSLAND WOMEN IN SPORT*****Speedway Vehicles & Motorcycle Racing - Kim Krebs***

Kim Krebs is a land-speed racer born in Queensland, Australia. She has made a name for herself in the high-speed world of motorsport, setting multiple land-speed records, particularly at events such as the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, USA. Known for her precision and courage, Krebs competes in high-performance vehicles, aiming to break speed barriers. Her passion for speed racing has led her to be recognised globally, and she continues to push boundaries in a traditionally male-dominated sport.

***Boxing/Wrestling- Shannon O'Connell***

Shannon O'Connell is a prominent female boxer from Queensland, Australia, known as "Shotgun" for her powerful punches and aggressive fighting style. She has competed in the super bantamweight and featherweight divisions, earning numerous Australian titles and international accolades throughout her career. O'Connell made her professional debut in 2011 and has since become one of Australia's top female boxers. She has fought for world titles and represented Queensland at the highest level, inspiring many women in the sport of boxing.

***Woodchop - Renee Retschlag***

Renee Retschlag, a leading female woodchopper from Queensland, hails from Kilcoy and grew up in Deception Bay. She has become a prominent figure in Australian woodchopping, holding titles such as Queensland Jill Underhand Champion and 2021 Women's Stihl Timbersports Champion. Retschlag regularly competes at the Ekka, where her skills have earned her recognition as one of the top female woodchoppers in the country. Her success in this traditionally male-dominated sport has made her a role model for aspiring female athletes in the field.

***Equestrian Events & Show Jumping - Michelle Lang-McMahon***

Michelle Lang-McMahon is a distinguished equestrian athlete from Waterford in Queensland, celebrated for her achievements in showjumping and eventing. With a career spanning many years, she has represented Australia at international competitions, consistently showcasing her talent and dedication to the sport. Lang-McMahon is known for her exceptional horsemanship, which allows her to build strong partnerships with her horses, leading to impressive performances in the arena. Her commitment to the sport not only inspires fellow competitors but also encourages the next generation of equestrians to pursue their dreams in the challenging world of showjumping.

***Harness Racing - Lola and Julie Weidemann***

Lola Weidemann and Julie Weidemann are two of Queensland's most successful harness racing drivers and trainers. Competing since the 1980s, both sisters have built an outstanding reputation in the sport, with Lola surpassing 3,000 race wins in her career. The Weidemann sisters are known for their skill and consistency in training and driving horses across Queensland and Australia. They have worked together extensively, becoming a dominant force in harness racing, and are admired for their longevity and contributions to the sport's growth in this male-dominated sport.



## FAMOUS QUEENSLAND WOMEN IN SPORT

### *Baseball - Gabrielle Smith*

Gabrielle Smith is a talented female baseball player who has represented Queensland in women's baseball. She has competed in various national competitions, showcasing her skills as a versatile player. Gabrielle's contributions have helped highlight the growing presence and success of women in baseball, particularly in Queensland, where the sport continues to develop. Her achievements in the game serve as an inspiration for young female athletes aspiring to pursue baseball professionally in a traditionally male-dominated sport.

### *Soccer - Clare Polkinghorne*

Clare Polkinghorne is a highly respected defender for the Matildas, the Australian women's national soccer team, and hails from Queensland. She made her international debut in 2006 and has since become a key figure in Australian women's soccer, known for her leadership and defensive prowess. Polkinghorne has represented Australia in multiple FIFA Women's World Cups and Olympic Games. Domestically, she has played for Brisbane Roar in the W-League (now A-League Women), making her a role model for aspiring female athletes in Queensland and beyond.

## THE HOME TEAM TO MEET ENGLAND ON SATURDAY



QUEENSLAND women cricketers, with the exception of N. Whillans, who will play against the English tourists on Saturday. Front row (left to right): M. McLean, F. Broadrick, K. Smith (capt.), Joyce Brewer (vice-capt.), Joan Brewer, B. Webb. Back row: B. Beaul, Q. Maier, Q. Atwood, E. Crouch, M. Crouch.



## FAMOUS QUEENSLAND FIRST NATIONS ATHLETES IN SPORT

Here are notable Queensland First Nations/Aboriginal athletes in various sports:

### ***Rugby League:***

#### *Arthur "Artie" Beetson*

Arthur "Artie" Beetson is a rugby league legend and a trailblazer for Indigenous athletes in Australia. Born in Roma, Queensland in 1945, he became the first Indigenous Australian to captain a national sporting team when he led the Australian rugby league team. Beetson was known for his incredible skills as a forward and played for clubs like the Balmain Tigers, Eastern Suburbs Roosters, and Parramatta Eels. He also became a Queensland hero as the captain of the state's first State of Origin team in 1980. Beetson's legacy extends beyond rugby, inspiring Indigenous athletes and shaping Queensland rugby league.

#### *Steve Renouf*

Known as "The Pearl," Renouf is a legendary Queensland rugby league player, born on June 8, 1970, in Murgon, Queensland. He attended Murgon State High School before going on to play for the Brisbane Broncos and the Queensland Maroons. Renouf, a proud Indigenous Australian from the Gunggari people, is regarded as one of the greatest centres in rugby league history. He played a pivotal role in the Broncos success during the 1990s, including their premiership victories. Renouf's speed, agility, and try-scoring ability made him a fan favourite, and he remains an important figure in both Queensland and Australian rugby league.

#### *Tallisha Harden*

Tallisha Harden is an Aboriginal female rugby league player from Queensland who has played elite level since 2018 for the Brisbane Broncos in the NRL Women's Premiership and has represented Queensland in State of Origin matches. Harden is a proud advocate for her Indigenous heritage and has become a key figure in women's rugby league, showcasing leadership and talent both on and off the field. Her contributions to the game continue to inspire young Indigenous athletes across Queensland and Australia.

### ***Rugby Union:***

#### *Lloyd McDermott*

Lloyd McDermott - A famous Indigenous Aboriginal rugby union player from Queensland. Born in Eidsvold, Queensland, McDermott was one of the first Indigenous Australians to represent the country in rugby union. He played for the Wallabies in 1962, making history as one of the few Indigenous players in the sport at the time. After his rugby career, McDermott became a pioneering lawyer and advocate for Indigenous rights. His contributions to both sport and the legal profession have left a lasting legacy.

Selena Tranter (nee Worsley) - was a famous Indigenous Aboriginal rugby union player from Queensland. She played for the Wallaroos, the Australian women's rugby union team, representing Australia in international competition. Tranter is celebrated not only for her achievements on the field but also for being a trailblazer for Indigenous women in rugby union. She played in several key tournaments, including the Rugby World Cup, and has contributed significantly to raising the profile of women's rugby and Indigenous athletes in Australia.





## FAMOUS QUEENSLAND FIRST NATIONS ATHLETES IN SPORT

### *Cricket:*

#### *Eddie Gilbert*

Eddie Gilbert was an Aboriginal cricketer born in 1905 near Woodford, Queensland, and became famous for his exceptionally fast bowling. He played for Queensland in the Sheffield Shield during the 1930s and is best known for once dismissing Don Bradman for a duck, a rare feat. Gilbert's bowling was described as so fast that it was often compared to the speed of modern cricketers, but his career was cut short due to controversy surrounding his bowling action and racial discrimination. Despite this, he remains an iconic figure in Queensland cricket.

#### *Edna Newfong (Crouch)*

Edna Crouch, a descendant of the Ngugi people of Moreton Bay, was born on the 22 November 1915. She married Ben Archie Newfong (Archibald Nu Fong) on the 21 March 1942, a Queensland heavyweight boxer champion. The Crouch family has a long association with playing sport in the Wynnum district but Edna wasn't the only sporting champion. Her brothers Robert and Glen, and Glen's son Glen Junior, played for the Wynnum-Manly Rugby League team. Glen Crouch "Paddy" was a top centre who had also played for Coorparoo Rugby League team. He toured New Zealand with the 1925 Queensland Rugby League team, rated by many as the finest team to ever tour New Zealand. Edna played for Queensland in Women's Cricket from 1934 to 1938. Thelma Crouch stated that in the 1938 championships Edna 'bowled with perfect length, and her slow ball had many of the batswomen in trouble".

#### *Mabel Crouch (Campbell)*

Mabel Dorothy Crouch (Campbell), was a descendant of the Quandamooka people, from Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island), Queensland. She was born on 1 July 1908 and died on 8 February 1957. Mabel played for Queensland in Women's Cricket from 1934 to 1936. During the England Women's Cricket team tour of Australia in 1934-35 Mabel topped the batting averages in the England versus Queensland matches. In the 1936 interstate carnival, Mabel scored 56 not out against the champions, Victoria. Both women should be celebrated for their contribution and leadership in the field of sports.

### *Tennis:*

#### *Ash Barty*

Ash Barty was born on April 24, 1996, in Ipswich, Queensland, and is a proud Indigenous Australian with roots in the Ngarigo people on her father's side. Growing up in Queensland, she developed her tennis skills at the West Brisbane Tennis Centre. Barty went on to win three Grand Slam singles titles, including the French Open (2019), Wimbledon (2021), and Australian Open (2022). She retired in 2022 while ranked world number one, leaving a lasting legacy in tennis, inspiring young athletes, particularly within Indigenous communities.



**FAMOUS QUEENSLAND FIRST NATIONS ATHLETES IN SPORT*****Soccer:****James Brown*

James was a professional soccer player born in Brisbane, Queensland, on February 19, 1990. Brown made his debut in the A-League with Gold Coast United in 2009. He quickly became known for his attacking skills as a midfielder. After playing for Gold Coast United, he went on to represent Newcastle Jets and Melbourne City in the A-League. Brown's career also saw him play in the National Premier Leagues (NPL), and he has been regarded as a key player in Queensland football circles.

*Allira Toby*

Allira Toby was born in Brisbane, Queensland. She began her professional soccer career in the W-League (now A-League Women) in 2016, playing as a forward for Brisbane Roar. Toby quickly made an impact with her speed, skill, and goal-scoring ability. After several successful seasons with Brisbane Roar, she moved to Adelaide United for the 2020–2021 season. Toby has been an important figure in Queensland football, showcasing her talent on the national stage and inspiring younger athletes, especially in women's football.

***Boxing:****Archie Newfong*

Archie Newfong (also known as Archibald Nu Fong) was born on March 21, 1942, and was a Queensland heavyweight boxer of Aboriginal descent. He is known for his contributions to Australian boxing and his representation of Indigenous athletes in the sport during his career. Although specific records about his championship titles may not be as well-documented, Newfong remains a significant figure in the history of Indigenous participation in boxing in Queensland.

*Jerry Jerome*

Jerry Jerome was the first Aboriginal Australian to win a national boxing title. Born in Queensland, he made history in 1912 by becoming the Australian Middleweight Champion. Jerome was not only a talented boxer but also a trailblazer for Indigenous athletes in Australian sport, overcoming racial barriers to achieve success during a time of significant challenges for Indigenous Australians. His legacy as a pioneer in boxing has left a lasting impact on Australian sport and Indigenous representation.

*Ron Richards*

Ron Richards was one of Australia's greatest middleweight boxers, known for his incredible skill and success in the 1930s and 1940s. Born of Aboriginal descent, Richards overcame significant racial challenges to become a leading figure in Australian boxing. He fought in multiple weight divisions, including middleweight, light heavyweight, and heavyweight, and held multiple Australian titles during his career. His resilience, skill, and courage have made him an enduring figure in the history of Australian sport, particularly for Indigenous athletes.





## EDUCATION

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# Ekka

## EDUCATION

### INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) is recognised for its excellence, over many years, by winning numerous awards at the International Fairs & Expos (IAFE) Awards.

IAFE has more than 1,000 members representing agricultural fairs from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

These awards represent the continued dedication the Ekka plays in bridging the country city divide, and educating the next generation on the essential role farming and agriculture plays in their everyday lives.

