

EDUCATION

Ekka Education is bigger and better than ever

The spotlight is well and truly on educational activities at the Ekka with the Ag Education Hall expanding by more than 2,300 square metres – the expansion is so big that you could fit almost two Olympic swimming pools into the precinct!

All the additional space is essential for the many amazing educational activations at Ekka 2024, with six new stands to check out and an increase in size to some activities that have proven popular with Ekka-goers.





Education at the Ekka

WHEN: 9AM TO 7PM DAILY

WHERE: AG EDUCATION HALL

Sugarcane - one plant, many products

From the sugar that sweetens your cake to the electricity that powers your home and the fuel that drives your car, sugarcane is a truly remarkable and versatile crop. Children will get up close to real cane, meet some of the pests that can affect the industry and see the different products made from sugarcane including sugar and bioproducts. The kids will then participate in a Paddock to Packet virtual reality experience.

Australian Good Meat Paddock to Plate virtual reality experience

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) will take children on an immersive tour of Australian beef and lamb production through their Australian Good Meat Paddock to Plate virtual reality experience. Children, and the wider community, will be educated about the world-leading Australian production systems that stand behind our safe, nutritious and delicious Aussie red meat. Guests will also have a chance to speak with some of MLA's ambassadors working in the red meat industry.

Kids Get Cooking! presented by Australian Eggs

There are eggs-cellent activities aplenty at Kids' Get Cooking, an interactive cooking activation that focuses on teaching kids the importance of eggs in a healthy diet, while providing hands on cooking experience.

At the Interactive Cooking Stations children can participate in fun and safe cooking activities, learning how to prepare a simple egg based recipe under the guidance of culinary experts. Here the creativity is encouraged, allowing kids to experiment with various ingredients to make unique and tasty egg meal!

Kids will also learn about the nutritional benefits of eggs, including their high protein content and essential vitamins and minerals. Importantly, emphasis is placed on kitchen safety and hygiene, teaching children proper handwashing techniques and safe food handling practices.

The Kids Get Cooking Egg activation is not only a fun activity but also aims to instil healthy eating habits and basic cooking skills in children, making it a popular attraction at Ekka.

NEW - The Scientist's Kitchen

QIMR Berghofer will inspire the next generation of scientists by providing fun and interactive experiences focussed on fascinating foods and fibre, our digestive system, and iron.

Some of Australia's leading medical researchers will share important information about our diet including the importance of dietary fibre and how we can all keep our gut microbiome happy. They will highlight the powerful role iron has in our bodies, including carrying oxygen, producing energy, and maintaining healthy cells, skin, hair and nails.

Visitors will have the chance to make the perfect plate of food for a healthy diet and will learn about native Australian meats, fruits and vegetables which are high in iron, fibre, vitamin C, protein and other vital minerals.

NEW - Cobb & Co

Celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the last Cobb & Co coach service in Australia, the Cobb & Co activation is a display of the fast-moving, rattling and clattering service that was once a lifeline in Australian communities - reminiscent of our country's history and heritage of the Australian bush.

NEW - Harvest to Home: A Grain Story

Gain some insider knowledge on the humble grains' journey from farm to table with four interactive activities to help answer the question: 'where does the bread in my sandwich come from?'

This experience aims to teach kids about the journey of grains from farm to table through four interactive and hands on activities, with a professional bread maker onsite to demonstrate various bread making techniques.

Grain Milling: Children learn about the process of grinding grains into flour.

Sifting Flour: Kids get to sift flour, understanding the importance of removing impurities.

Kneading Dough: A hands-on activity where children knead dough, learning about the texture and consistency required for baking.

Molding Bread or Cutting Cookies: Children can shape and mold dough into bread or use cookie cutters, allowing them to be creative and learn about baking.

Sessions will run 10 times a day, every hour from 9.30am to 6.30pm, with each session accommodating up to 36 participants to ensure each child gets a hands-on experience.

NEW - G.O.A.T. - Greatest of All Time

Goat-ting around this year's Ekka will be 19 fibreglass, life-sized goats displaying student artworks. Students have tapped into their inner 'Vincent Van Goat' with their designs adorning the goats to showcase the school's region. Their design and supporting artist direction statement speak to why they consider it the Greatest Of All Time (G.O.A.T.). In addition, there is \$1000 in prize money for the top three winning schools, as well as supporting teacher resources thanks to MLA (Meat and Livestock Australia).

The 19 finalists were selected from more than 150 entries, with students transferring their winning design from paper to goat, as part of a curriculum-aligned program educating students on Australia's goat industry. The 19 goat finalists will be representative of the 19 goats that arrived in Australia on the first fleet back in 1788.

The brightly coloured goats featuring G.O.A.T. designs will be displayed in the Ag Education Hall over the nine days of Ekka.

NEW - Fish Competition Dinosaur Display

In the Royal Queensland Show's Fish Competition a diverse variety of breeds are judged including common goldfish, fighting fish, exotic tropical and freshwater fish as well as crustaceans, amphibians and even aquatic plants.

This year an exciting addition to the fish display includes a Dinosaur Fish (lung fish) activation where you can see a real life dinosaur.

The Australian lungfish is a prehistoric species that first appeared in Australia 380 million years ago, well before dinosaurs. It's the world's oldest known living vertebrate, remaining unchanged from its current form for over 100 million years

Scarecrow display

Waltzing Matilda's Jolly Swagman is the theme for this year's scarecrow creating students, which will be on display in the upsized Ag Education Hall.

Every year students are encouraged to create Scarecrows designed to align with the year's theme, with the 2024 theme celebrating 160 years since the birth of the poem's author, Andrew Barton "Banjo" Patterson.

Theme celebrates Patterson's birth in Orange, NSW in 1864 and recognising his significant contributions to Australian literature. Paterson's



poems and stories capture the soul of the Australian bush and its people, providing a window into the life and culture of the country during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Students competing have sought to base their scarecrow on Banjo Paterson's most iconic character, the Jolly Swagman from Waltzing Matilda, and were encouraged to delve into the poet's famous works, to envision these archetypal characters.

Agtech Alley

NEW - Greenhouse Innovators

Students from several schools have taken farming with AgTech to the next level by competing in the Ekka's Greenhouse Innovator Competition. Participating schools from across Queensland were provided with Greenhouse Innovator kits from IntegratedSTEM to analyse the effects of different soils, lights, and environments on the monitoring of plant growth and data collection. Over the past month, students from grades 7 to 10 have designed a research project, conducted classroom horticulture experiments, and presented their findings. The mini-farming operation and student project designs will be on display in the Ag Education Hall over the nine days of Ekka.

Botbuilders Robotics

Build, code and play with robots at this exciting new activation all about robotics. Here, students can build skills and confidence in STEM and robotics so they may participate in fun robotics competitions. Learn more about BotBuilders teams across multiple robotics competitions: FIRST Lego League, FIRST Tech Challenge, FIRST Robotics Competition and RoboRAVE.

NEW - Ag Drones

Ag-education goes sky high with this exciting new activation. This display will show how drones are used in modern farming from spraying and aerial seeding to mapping.

NEW - UniSQ

University of Southern Queensland leads this eye-opening activation, which shows how technology as powerful as your smart phone can be used in agriculture to identify seed, invasive insects, best practices methods and alerts on crops.

Flower & Garden Precinct (H-13)

9AM - 6PM DAILY

Little Backyard Farmers presented by Somerville House

Little Backyard Farmers presented by Somerville House is an interactive educational activity teaching kids about urban farming.

There are five hands-on stations where children are taught the importance of future sustainability practices through composting, planting seeds, growing vegetables, and nurturing plants.

1. Chicken Coop - kids will enter a large coop, searching for an egg to add to their basket among the chickens (props) and hay. They'll learn about life cycles and raising hens.
2. Flowers and Bees - in this colour matching activity, children will

weave their way through a giant flower garden to collect pollen. They'll put their pollen disc into the beehive, before moving to the next station.

3. Planting - children will dig in a garden bed, planting vegetables.
4. Harvesting - children will harvest vegetables to learn about garden care and growth. They'll find out how long different fruits and vegetables take to grow and will add some lettuce, potatoes, and carrots to their basket.
5. Fruit Orchard - children will water apple and orange trees (props) and pick a fruit for their basket. They'll also have to identify whether certain fruits and vegetables are in fact a fruit or a vegetable.

Flower Crowns

Kids will be given fresh flowers and the necessary craft materials to make a pretty flower crown. This fun nature craft is great for creativity, with kids making patterns and designing their finished crowns.

NEW - 4B Garden

Learn about the birds and the bees, butterflies and bugs (4B) and, specifically, how to attract them in the 4B Garden. The impressive 14-metre-long self-guided garden will showcase the best types of flowers to plant in your garden to attract bees, along with their animal friends butterflies, bugs and birds. It will also feature sensory activities for the kids.

Around the Grounds

Ekka Learning Trail

The Ekka Learning Trail is a self-guided activity where students are provided with a 'passport booklet' and encouraged to journey around the grounds to collect stamps from each of the eight learning trail points. The trail provides sensory, hands-on experience such as milking dairy cows and becoming a little backyard farmer. Learning Trail Passport Booklets can be collected at Information Booths.

The eight trail points are:

- Bees
- Little Backyard Farmers presented by Somerville House
- Agtech Alley
- Cotton
- Sheep Shearing
- Animal Nursery
- Horsing Around Show presented by Queensland Off-The Track
- Norco Milking Barn & Norco Grass to Glass Experience

Show Camp

Some 20 grade six students will be given the chance to become journalists at Show Camp, a partnership program of Education Queensland and the Ekka. Here the students will capture the activities and experiences that make Queensland's largest event unique, with many staying overnight onsite. Students will develop their news writing, researching, interviewing, photography, video and podcasting skills, while producing up to 40 stories to be published in the 32nd edition of the Ekka Courier. The student's Ekka classroom will be located on level 3 of the Large Animal Pavilion.