

WHAT'S NEW?

A selection of what's new at the 2026 Ekka.

Competitions

Beef Cattle: This year, Charolais is the feature breed and will also be the largest group of cattle at the Brisbane Showgrounds with over 250 entered.

Cake Decorating: This year's new theme is "Sewing".

Creative Art and Craft: New classes including 150th Tapestry, Doll, Decorative Handcraft, Headpiece, Papercraft, and Ceramic/ Porcelain.

Fashions on the Field: Two new stylish classes - Fashions of the Past (pre-1960) – and Fashions for the Future.

Floristry: To celebrate Ekka's 150th anniversary entrants are invited to create a dried and preserved floral arrangement that reflects "any era of Ekka", an arrangement that reflects "the evolution of Ekka, or decorate real beards, moustaches, and hats in the revamped Beards, Mo's and Big Hats class.

Natural Fibres Make & Model: New themed classes: Denim through the Ages, "1940s" for senior school student entrants, and "1800s to 1930s" for Open Adults.

Painting and Drawing: A new and exciting class – Urban/ Abstract (any medium).

Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs: New Champion trophy - The Don Chandler Perpetual Councillors Award for Most Successful Exhibitor.

Quilts: The new class - Ekka Memories – invites entrants to stitch together their memories of Ekka.

Entertainment

Ekka Dance Eisteddfod: The inaugural Ekka Dance Eisteddfod features top performers and standout routines from 24 Queensland dance schools and studios.

Joel the Juggler with Eric the Robotic Dog: Joel the Juggler and his robotic dog Eric will dazzle audiences with their jawdropping juggling feats, clever tricks, and interactive antics.

Threads of Time: Celebrating 150 Years of Fashion: Fashion, theatre, and 150 years of history will collide in this showstopping, family-friendly production, celebrating style and storytelling.

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.

Farmyard Friends Stage Show: Join us for a delightful adventure when everyone's favourite farmyard friends take to the stage in a talent quest full of laughs.

Sand Sculpture Display & Workshops: 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.

Beyblade Tournament: 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.

Business in the Front, Party in the Back — Mulletfest hits the Ekka: Ekka's inaugural Mulletfest competition supported by Farm Angels, will see competitors from across the country battle it out for mullet glory.

Flanno for a Farmer by Farm Angels: 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.

Hour of Power presented by Horsey People: Take a break and enjoy an action-packed lunchtime entertainment show in the Main Arena.



EkkaNITES Celebrate 150

Woodchop: Queensland vs New South Wales: Queensland and New South Wales will go head-to-head in a thrilling interstate woodchop competition.

Australian National Anthem featuring Chris Cobb and Felicity Kircher: Experience a stirring rendition of the Australian National Anthem and other iconic songs, brought to life by outstanding country music artists Chris Cobb and Felicity Kircher.

Heart of the Land – Celebrating 150 years of Queensland Farming Spirit featuring Dave Manchon and Friends: Through stirring narration, a sweeping musical score, and breathtaking performances, this epic production will honour the evolution of rural life and innovation that has driven the growth of Queensland's agricultural industries.

Dave Manchon & Vegemite ride together: In a tribute to Queensland's equestrian heritage, Dave Manchon and his horse Vegemite will celebrate the enduring bond between humans and horses by riding in a convertible.

Ekka 150 – From the Ground Up Exhibition: Step into 150 years of Ekka history in a one-of-a-kind immersive experience where visitors are invited to journey through the decades, exploring the sights, sounds, stories, and traditions that have shaped Queensland's most loved annual event.

Melbourne Cup joins the party!

The People's Cup helps celebrate the 150th Ekka:

Experience history in the making when the iconic \$1 million Lexus Melbourne Cup joins the spectacular 150th Ekka celebrations.

The Ekka's historic anniversary is part of the national Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour with the Cup on show during Thoroughbred and Standardbred Day on August 10 and will form part of the beloved Grand Parade on People's Day, August 12.

Bringing the Cup to the Ekka symbolises the great synergy and similar traditions both the Ekka and the Melbourne Cup share in bringing community together and forming part of our nation's social, cultural and sporting heritage.

Education

The Butter Barn presented by Norco: This hands-on activation invites children to become butter makers, food scientists, and dairy detectives as they uncover how one of Australia's favourite foods begins its journey on the farm.

Ekka's Farm of the Future – AgTech Innovation Challenge: Ekka and STEMPunks Education's 'Farm of the Future - AgTech Innovation Challenge' is a state-wide STEM education and innovation program that empowers Queensland students to design real-world agricultural solutions.

Food & Beverage

Pink Cheese Toasties from PINKS since 1963: Enjoy the Ekka-first colourful pink cheese toasties featuring golden, crispy bread sandwiched with oozing, melted cheese and a vibrant pink twist that's as delicious as it is eye-catching.

Sip & Dumpling Cup from Dumpling King: A perfectly paired cup featuring fragrant Lychee Jasmin Iced Tea underneath and freshly made dumplings in the top compartment for the ultimate grab and go treat.

Bianco Lobster Bar: Indulge in rich garlic butter lobster, or fried ravioli with Vodka sauce while sipping on a refreshing Aperol Spritz or Champagne.

Steak & Shake from Blackstone BBQ: Imagine bite-sized, perfectly seared steak nestled atop golden, crispy fries, accompanied by garlic herb butter in a convenient cup...then SHAKE IT UP!

Dragon Breath Ice Cream Dumplings from Fruity Poppin: Bite into Fruity Poppin's handcrafted sweetcorn puffs as cascading liquid nitrogen creates a mystical dragon's breath effect.

Dirty Soda Sisters: Each Dirty Soda is a canvas, letting you mix sparkling soda with flavoured syrups and cream.

Hot Honey Fried Chicken + Chicken Nuggets with Caviar from Chicky Chicky Bang Bang: Get ready for a flavour explosion from Chicky Chicky Bang Bang who are serving up crispy, golden chicken with serious crunch.

Scallop Burger + Nashville Hot Pickle on a stick from Burgerhead: The Nashville Pickle combines bold Nashville seasoning with the tangy snap of a pickle while their burger is sandwiched between two crispy golden potato scallops!

Interactive Animal Adventures

The Goat Shed – A Farm Experience: Get up close with friendly dairy goats and their kids, watch live milking demonstrations, meet the farmers, and learn where goat milk comes from at The Goat Shed.

Music

Chris Cobb and James Blundell: Chris Cobb will perform at Ekka with special guest and country music legend James Blundell, bringing heartfelt storytelling and a modern country sound to the Plaza Music Stage.

Jarrad Wrigley: Emerging Australian country artist Jarrad Wrigley will bring his high-energy country sound to XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill, performing songs that celebrate rural life with honesty, humour and heart.

Jaydin Shingleton: 2026 Toyota Star maker Grand Finalist and contestant on The Voice, Jaydin Shingleton is a rising country artist known for his powerful vocals, high-energy performances, and genuine connection with audiences both on and off the stage.

ELEEA: singer-songwriter ELEEA blends the fearlessness of a solo backpacker with the polish of an award-winning folk/ country artist.

NVR EVR - DJ Set: Èva llov's NVR EVR DJ set will bring a high-energy mix of pop, dance, and rhythm to Ekka, drawing on her experience as an Australian Idol contestant, live performer, and DJ.

Rides

In 2026, Ekka has three vibrant carnival precincts delivering non-stop thrills and magical moments for the young and young-at-heart – B105 Sideshow Alley, Kids Carnival, and the new Machinery Hill Kids Zone. New rides include:

Showbags

2026 brings 356+ showbags to The Courier-Mail Showbag Pavilion, with 93 new bags making their debut including: **The Mandalorian – Grogu; Premier League Showbags; F1 Kit Kat; Ovaltine Showbag; Fuggler; Twinkle Glory Showbag; and Vegemite.**

