

11 August 2017

## What an opener! 30,000 revel in the sun

By night's end about 30,000 people are expected to have attended the opening day of the 2017 Royal Queensland Show soaking up the sun and basking in all the fun that Ekka brings.

There were nerves as the next generation of competitors had their turn to shine...from young auctioneers to whip crackers to the cutest baby animals on show, the Ekka kicked off its 140<sup>th</sup> year celebrations in style.

**Here's what's in store for Day 2 (tomorrow) at Queensland's biggest annual event:**

**MEDIA DOORSTOP: 11.30am with RNA President David Thomas or Chief Executive Brendan Christou on Heritage Hill overlooking the Main Arena.**

### **Day 2: Saturday 12 August – JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS**

- From 7am to 5pm– Farriers and Blacksmiths (Oval No 2) – Map ref: G4
- From 9am – Longhair kittens (RACQ Animal Nursery) – Map ref: N8
- 9.15am - RNA Premier Beef Presentation Prime and Led Steer Awards (Entertainment Stage Upper Royal ICC) – Map ref: G-12
- RNA Stud Beef and QCAS Young Judges Competitions (Main Arena) – 9.45am
- From 9am - 5pm - Canine Judging Group 7 Dog Pavilion – Map ref: P11
- 4.30pm - Queensland and Nationals Young Farmers Challenge (Main Arena)
- 10am - 5pm – Jack and Jill Double Handed Sawing Championship (Woodchop Arena) Map ref: G-3
- 2.50pm - Boys (12-18 years) underhand champion (Woodchop Arena) Map ref: E-2.

### **BEEFING UP THE OPENING CEREMONY**

The big beasts of Ekka will get plenty of time in the spotlight tomorrow, now that the Official Opening Ceremony has 'moo-ved' to the second day of show. The ceremony, traditionally held on opening night, will take place at midday tomorrow to accommodate not one, but two livestock parades featuring hundreds of the country's best beef cattle. Cattle have featured at Ekka since the very first show in 1876 and the livestock parades remain a family favourite - nowhere else can this many cattle be found so close to a city's CBD. The Official Opening Ceremony, which welcomes Ekka guests from across the state, will be followed by a parade of livestock, a stunt vehicle display paying tribute to the Holden Precision Driving Team and the Stud Beef Paraders' Competition. His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia will officially declare the 140th show open, with the ceremony also including the traditional Blessing of the Plough and the sounds of the Australian Army Band Brisbane. **WHEN: Midday – Main Arena – L-9**

## **WHIPPERSNAPPER WOODCHOPPERS – An Ekka first!**

For the very first time in Ekka history, kids will go head to head in the Woodchop and Sawing Competition. A new Under 13's Invitational 250mm class has been introduced this year, meaning it's the first time the kids have swung their axes at Ekka in a proper competition. You won't want to miss these kids, including a brother and sister, battle it out. **WHEN: 2PM – WOODCHOP ARENA**

## **PRETTIEST PUDDY CATS ON SHOW!**

Possibly the prettiest and cutest animals on show at the Ekka, the longhair kittens with their luxurious locks will delight. The longhaired Persians, which date back to the 16th century, are the true princesses of the show and are not to be missed! There will also be Ragdolls, Maine Coons and Birmans on show, just to name a few! **WHERE – RACQ Animal Nursery. From 9am**

## **LITTLEST POETS!**

Queensland's youngest poets, including nine year old twins Dustin and Tamzin Finger, will take to the stage to belt out some bush ballads. The kids will each get six minutes of fame to showcase the best of Banjo Paterson or their favourite original poems in the Ekka Student Performer 12 years and under class. **WHEN: 9.30AM – FLOWER AND GARDEN STAGE, THE OLD MUSEUM**

## **FORGING AHEAD**

You'll also want to see the Farriers and Blacksmiths Competition (August 12 – 14), with this ancient art of blacksmithing and farriery an essential part of the horse world. Watch on as professionals in this field go head to head competing against the best in Australia and prepare to be mesmerised as they design and shape metal into shoes over hot flames. **WHEN: 7am-5pm – OVAL 2 – Map ref: H-5.**

## **GARDENING ROYALTY**

Gardening royalty Graham Ross from Channel 7's Better Homes and Gardens will take the Community Stage to share his gardening gospel at the Old Museum's Flower and Garden Pavilion tomorrow.

**WHEN: 10.30am – 11am; 3.30pm – 4.30pm – THE OLD MUSEUM – Map ref: D-15**

## **EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

The 2017 Ekka Media Kit is now available to download. It is the most comprehensive information guide to the show - to download please visit [www.ekka.com.au/media-centre](http://www.ekka.com.au/media-centre)

Don't forget to follow us on social media #ekka



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