

what's new 2017

From humble beginnings in 1876 when an estimated 15,000 to 17,000 people attended the show, the Ekka has grown into a world-class event attracting on average 400,000 people each year.

The Ekka is the People's Show, full of traditions and childhood memories passed down through generations of families and this is why it remains such an iconic and popular event.

Turning 140 is a significant moment in Ekka's history and it will be commemorated in many ways, including an online history portal where people can upload their photos from an era long ago and through a special video played around the grounds.

Bringing the country to the city will always be what Ekka is about. It is steeped in tradition and will long hold a special place in the hearts of Queenslanders.

New this year!

Tickets

The brand new Twilight Ticket means people can enjoy Ekka until late, as they watch the sun go down. For just \$16 a ticket, half the price of an adult pass, anyone over the age of four (those under four get in free) can enter the show from 6pm – perfect for an after-work or after-school Ekka trip.

Rides

New rides at Ekka this year include:

- The Beast - True to its name, The Beast is the largest travelling ride in the Southern Hemisphere – it's 25 metres tall with a swing of 45 metres high and has the force of a fighter plane!
- Star of the Show - Australia's first rotating gondola Ferris Wheel stands more than 32 metres high and riders will enjoy wonderful 360 degree views of Sideshow Alley

Night time entertainment

Featuring world firsts and Ekka firsts, the new EkkaNITES show includes:

- Early children's fireworks at 6pm with a 'Colours of the Great Barrier Reef' theme
- A brand new fireworks spectacular featuring world first human stilt performers shooting pyrotechnics off their backs
- A Horse Archery Combat Show featuring three world champion horseback archers
- A world first Jaws of Death Aerial Straight Jacket Escape with a twist

140 years

Queensland's largest and most loved event is celebrating a remarkable milestone this year - its 140th anniversary.



The Beast

- The Rooftop Express Brumby Muster featuring 30 horses
- Ekka's Tribute to the Holden Precision Driving Team featuring awe-inspiring driving maneuvers
- Flawless aerial tricks from ShowTime FMX's new show - Battle for the Golden Helmet
- Sheep dog demonstrations using impressive LED lighting for the first time
- A brand new Woodchop and Ride & Drive concept

Day time entertainment

Sure to wow the crowds, entertainment never before seen at Ekka includes:

- USA Xpogo Stunt Team featuring championship pro athletes who have set world records
- Feathered Friends Bird Flight Show featuring a cheeky Sulphur Crested Cockatoo who picks money from wallets
- Bananas in Pyjamas Live Show presented by Australian Bananas featuring everyone's favourite mischievous twins B1 and B2
- Farmyard Friends Talent Show featuring four cuddly characters - Hayden the Horse, Barbara-ann Streisand the Sheep, Daisy the Cow and Milo the Sheep Dog
- Ekka's inaugural Darts Championship presented by Formula Sports featuring members of the Brisbane Northern Suburbs Darts Club and including World and Australian champions



Craft beer alley

Food

Ekka is a foodie mecca and this year it'll feature new food and beverage offerings, including:

- Coffee in a Cone - very on trend and Instaworthy, Coffee Galleria is serving up piccolos in a chocolate coated cone - delicious!
- Craft beer alley - up to nine breweries will be represented in the craft beer alley, including two of the champion breweries from the Australian International Beer Awards. There will also be tasting classes and beer and seafood matchings
- Portuguese Custard Tart - the most iconic Portuguese sweet, this tart has a traditional custard pastry consisting of a crème brûlée-like custard, caramelised in a crust of puff pastry
- Famous Funnel Cakes - returning after a two year absence, this fried dough creation is a traditional show food and sure to be a hit
- Both the Royal Queensland Steakhouse presented by JBS Australia and Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion will be open until 9pm (an extra hour and a half), giving foodies more time to chow down

The Old Museum

Back for a second year, this growing precinct will feature the new:

- Community Stage presented by Colorbond Steel featuring dance performances and gardening activities
- Ekka Makers Markets dedicated to showcasing Queensland's handcrafted products
- Grass of Thrones presented by Tinamba Turf 4m high chair - perfect for selfies
- Two new competitions - Potted Plants presented by Nursery and Garden Industry Australia and Verge Garden and Displays presented by Rocky Point Mulching
- Education Queensland Digital Roadshow featuring four fun activities
- The Hay-mazing Maze where kids will have to navigate their way out by completing six checkpoints

Education

The newly named Agricultural Education Hall features more educational activities for children than ever before, including the new Field to Fork interactive rural journey. In order of the agricultural cycle - composting, soil analysis, growing and planting, harvesting and processing - kids will take part in activities such as soil challenges, planting seeds, digging up vegetables, milling grains to make flour and then using the flour to bake healthy muffins.

Competitions

This year's Ekka will feature some new and exciting competitions and classes:

- Canine competition presented by Advance- new Feature Working Dogs Show (August 18)
- Fine Arts - new outdoor Sculpture Competition
- Fleece Breeds - new school class in Production in Angora and Mohair Fleece
- Flower and Garden - two new competitions, Potted Plants and Verge Garden and Displays
- Horse - Ekka guests can go onto the Main Arena on the first Sunday of show (August 13) to watch the Horse Competition being judged. There are also new lead rein classes for kids
- Paddock to Palate presented by Mort & Co - first awards presentation for the new 2016/17 Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge
- Pisciculture presented by PETstock - 34 new fighting fish (beta splendens) classes and two international judges
- Poultry, Birds and Eggs - new features, Mediterranean and Waterfowl
- Quilts Across Queensland - new modern quilts class
- Hy-line Brown School Egg Laying Competition - new competition which sees school students raise hens
- Woodchop and Sawing - new Under 13s junior class and new ladies classes



Fighting fish