

8 August 2019

Ekka set to celebrate farmers

In a true celebration of the country coming to the city, Queenslanders are invited to celebrate the state's agricultural sector when the 142nd Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) kicks off at the Brisbane Showgrounds tomorrow.

With many farming families battling drought and the devastating February floods, the RNA is encouraging Queenslanders to come together to support the state's agricultural and farming communities and celebrate this unique 10-day showcase (August 9-18).

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said about 400,000 people from rural towns and cities across Queensland and beyond were expected to flock to this year's Ekka to learn about agriculture, share stories, be entertained and delighted by 21,000 competition entries and 10,000 animals.

"The Ekka showcases the extraordinary resilience of our farmers and rural communities, and recognises and rewards our exhibitors, who year in year out, produce the best of the best despite often difficult conditions," he said.

"Unlike any other event the Ekka unites city and country: its rich heritage, beloved traditions and diverse competitions today form an integral part of the state's cultural and social fabric."

142nd Ekka

The Ekka is the people's show, and this year's Ekka offers unbeatable value with ticket prices frozen for the first time in 11 years, discounted family passes for \$80, Super Saver passes for seniors and discounted ride and food offers.

Visitors to the 2019 Ekka will enjoy new daytime entertainment including Dora the Explorer, Jimmy Giggie and PJ Masks Live Stage Shows, the Ekka Pinball Arcade, and performances by Jackie Love, Normie Rowe and Opera Queensland.

They will be excited by the return of the much-loved Heritage Bank Racing Pigs, Nature in Bloom Natural Fibres Fashion Parades presented by Channel Seven, and early children's fireworks, plus the spectacular fireworks finale. And they will be blown away by a tribute to our farmers during the world-class night show EkkaNITES supported by RACQ LifeFlight Rescue.

New Royal Queensland Tastes, serving award winning food and wine, will transport people to culinary heaven, while iconic show favourites such as Strawberry Sundaes, Dagwood Dogs and CWA Devonshire Teas will be in abundance!

Mr Christou encouraged visitors to drop into Alexandria Park, the new home for the popular canine competition as well as the Arrow Energy Pavilion (large animal pavilion), which this year features animals on all four levels.

The Ekka's most popular daytime attraction, the RACQ Animal Nursery, has also moved to a bigger and better home next door to the popular Kids Carnival area, adjacent to Alexandria Park.

Gates open at 9am tomorrow morning...we can't wait to see you then!

Day 1: Friday 9 August – HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA DOORSTOP:

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

JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS:

- From 9am – Stud Beef Cattle judging, Main Arena
- Parade of Champions 2.10pm – 2.40pm and Champion of Champions judging 2.40pm – 5pm
- From 9am – Canine judging (Hounds), Black Hawk Canine Pavilion
- 10am – 1pm – Pisciculture Judging, Agricultural Hall presented by SEQwater
- From 9am – Woodchop and Sawing, Iron Jack Woodchop Arena

CHAMPION OF CHAMPION BULL ON SHOW

Judging continues at Australia's largest annual cattle competition on Friday. More than 1700 head of cattle have been paraded, judged and displayed across the stud beef, led steer and prime beef sections during the week. Tomorrow (9 August) enjoy the Parade of Champions from 2.10pm – 2.40pm and Champion of Champions judging from 2.40pm – 5pm. New this year in stud beef is the inclusion of a feature breed – Brahman – and there are 117 head of them.

When: Parade of Champions from 2.10pm, Main Arena

GREAT QUEENSLAND BAKE OFF....COOKERY LIVE JUDGING

Ever wondered how to create show-winning cakes? Watch as our wonderful show judges take you on a journey as they choose the top entries. The popular Live Cookery Judging will assess two classes in the morning - the RNA Future Direction Committee's Strawberry Cupcakes and the ever-popular Carrot Bar Cake – and two classes in the afternoon - Pumpkin Fruit Cakes and Lemon Butter. The cookery entries will be put to the taste test in front of a live audience by our panel of expert judges giving Ekka visitors a rare and interesting insight into the judging process.

When: 10am & 2pm, Fine Arts Demonstration Stage, Ground Floor, Royal ICC

SIGN-UP TO A MASTER CLASS TO BECOME A MASTERCHEF

For the first time in Ekka history, the Ekka Cooking School presented by Spotlight will combine a demonstration stage with exclusive cooking masterclasses taught by Brisbane's leading chefs in the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion. There will be 50 masterclasses across the 10 days of show for those looking to expand their cooking skills and knowledge through hands-on learning. The classes run for 45 minutes and there will be a minimal cost of \$10, with each participant receiving a free Spotlight cooking apron and voucher. On Friday enjoy learning how to make Lemon and Lavender Panna Cotta with edible flower gravel and a chocolate 'soil' with Farmer Sarah from Basilea, or sign-up to many more Masterclasses during the day.

When: Daily from 10am, Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion

DOG LOVERS REJOICE

You'd be barking mad to miss the Hound judging at Ekka. The Canine Competition is one of the largest and most popular events at Ekka, attracting on average 2,300 entries. With judges flying in from around the world and everyone's favourite breeds on display, the event is sure to be a crowd winner. Hound breeds including the Afghan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Beagle, Dachshund, Bloodhound and Foxhound will be judged tomorrow.

When: From 9am, Black Hawk Canine Pavilion

AUCTIONEERS GO HEAD-TO-HEAD IN STATE FINALS

Following a series of hotly contested heats, Queensland's young auctioneers will descend on Ekka to compete for the coveted title of 2019 Queensland State Champion. The event will see the fast talkers compete in a display of commitment and excellence to the auctioneering profession. The Prime Beef Auction will take place following the judging of the Young Auctioneers – a popular event among cattle lovers.

When: 9am – 11am, Young Auctioneers Qld State Final; 11am – 3pm, Prime Beef Auction, Expo Place

Ekka Essentials:

- Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) August 9 – 18, 2019
- Brisbane Showgrounds, 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, Queensland
- Gates open at 9am
- Tickets are available online at www.ekka.com.au

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

The 2019 Ekka Media Kit is available to download. It is the most comprehensive information guide to the show – to download please visit www.ekka.com.au/media/media-kit/

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



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