

9 August 2019

What an opener! 30,000 have fun in the sun

By night's end about 30,000 people are expected to have attended opening day of the 2019 Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) presented by RACQ soaking up not just the sun but all the Ekka fun!

Tens of thousands of people descended on the Ekka to enjoy a host of highlights, from watching the crowning of the Champion of Champion in the Stud Beef competition, to listening to Queensland's best fast talkers in the Young Auctioneers State Final.

World class entertainment, fabulous food and fun times await you at Ekka tomorrow, as the Show gets into the swing of things for the start of its first full weekend.

DAY 2: SATURDAY 10 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 – Pisciculture Judging, Agricultural Hall presented by SEQwater
- RNA Stud Beef Paraders Competition (from 8.30am); RNA Stud Beef Young Judges Competition (from 1.30pm); QCAS Young Judges Competition (following Young Judges), Main Arena
- From 9am – Canine judging - Working Dogs, Obedience Judging, Utility, Black Hawk Canine Pavilion
- From 9.30am to 12pm – Bush Poetry – Student and Open Classes, The Old Museum

OFFICIAL OPENING

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia will officially declare the 142nd show open, with the ceremony also including a Traditional Blessing by Songwoman Maroochy Barambah, the Blessing of the Plough, a performance by the Australian Army Band Brisbane, and a livestock parade featuring some of the country's best stud beef cattle.

WHEN: 12noon to 12.45pm, Main Arena

AUSTRALIAN KONG OFF 3 PRESENTED BY RICHARD KNUCKLEZ & NETHERWORLD

This ultimate original Donkey Kong competition will feature the best Kong players from around the world. On Saturday, players will duke it out in a high score 'Kong Off' to qualify, with the best 16 players competing in the finals on Sunday in a battle royale for the glory and the championship belt.

WHEN: 10am to 10pm Saturday & 10am to 6pm Sunday 11 August, XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

50 YEAR POULTRY HONOUR TO PACK A PUNCH

Jeff Horn's Grandad Jack Dykstra will be honoured for 50 years of showing poultry in the Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs Competition presented by Australian Eggs at the Awards Presentation tomorrow – and his family, including Jeff, will be there to surprise him!

WHEN: 10.30am, Ground Floor Arrow Energy Pavilion

STRENGTH AND SPEED ON DISPLAY AT QUEENSLAND ARMWRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

In a battle of the biceps, more than 40 strong men and women will compete in the Australian Armwrestling Federation Queensland Championships on Saturday. They'll test their strength across three weight classes (lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight) in a double elimination competition. From world title competitors to husbands and wives, they'll go arm to arm in a bid to take down their opponent.

WHEN: 12noon to 6pm, XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill

QUEENSLAND YOUNG FARMERS CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY ARROW ENERGY

Eight teams, comprising 40 competitors, will take part in challenges reflecting everyday farm life, in the Young Farmers Challenge presented by Arrow Energy. An initiative of the RNA Future Directions Committee, the teams of four will complete activities such as swag rolling and providing first aid in this relay-style event. This year, the Ekka will also play host to the National Australian Young Farmers Challenge where winning teams from interstate will race off against one another to determine the winner.

WHEN: 4.30PM, Main Arena

CHEF DOMINIQUE RIZZO MASTERCLASS SET TO INSPIRE

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 Saturday enjoy learning how to make Broad Bean, mozzarella and mint bruschetta, stuffed pork involtini with fennel and orange salad with Chef Dominique Rizzo, or sign-up to many more Masterclasses during the day.

WHEN: Masterclasses daily at 10.45am, 12.15pm, 1.45pm, 3.15pm, 4.45pm, Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion

FIBRE TO FASHION CONVERSATION

The Nature in Bloom Natural Fibres Fashion Parades presented by Channel Seven will celebrate Queensland agriculture and community, with a new line-up of women's and menswear designers in 41 shows over the 10 days of Ekka. The Fibre to Fashion Conversation Series hosted by parade director Laura Churchill kicks off tomorrow with Brittanie Dreghorn, blogger at Britt's List, speaking to various Brisbane fashion designers.

WHEN: Fibre to Fashion Conversation at 12pm, Fashion Stage; Nature in Bloom Natural Fibres Fashion Parades at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm daily. Also at 3.30pm on 14 August.

TOP CATS ON SHOW

Preened to purr-fection, more than 50 breeds of cats will be showcased at Ekka, from long haired Persians to short haired Siamese, and also the cutest kittens. On Saturday enjoy watching the judging of the Shorthair Kittens.

WHEN: 9am to 5pm, Black Hawk Cat Pavilion

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



And download the Ekka App from [Google Play](#) or [iTunes](#)

For more information please contact the Ekka Media Unit:
Veronica Carew
General Manager Communications
Ph: 07 3253 3930/ 0408 323 631
Email: vcarew@rma.org.au

Nicole Clifton
Media and Communications Officer
Ph: 07 3253 3931/ 0417 451 775
Email: nclifton@rma.org.au