

July 7, 2015

Ekka country music comp extended

Budding country music artists have boot scooted to snap up spots in the annual Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) Country Music Showdown Competition, which will unearth the state's hidden stars during the Ekka next month.

Due to popular demand the competition, which is calling on country music artists aged from 12 years and over to enter, has added more performance spots and extended the closing date for entries to Monday July 20.

Plus every entrant goes into the draw to win one of five song writing workshops with country music legend James Blundell.

A headline performer at this year's spectacular night time show EkkaNITES, Blundell will be on hand to give five lucky entrants this money-can't-buy experience on the last Saturday of show.

The final day of Ekka (August 16) will feature the Country Music Showdown where entrants will have the chance to showcase their talent and get a true live music experience.

The rising stars will be backed by live band 'The Smokin' Crawdads' on the Harvest and Hops Stage at the Ekka's famous Stockmen's Bar and Grill.

Last year's inaugural competition unearthed Tori Somers, the winner of the junior section and open winner Karen Maimon.

Both artists have gone on to record their first singles and are now pursuing careers in the music industry.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said the music showdown was about unearthing the best of the best and providing a platform for emerging country music artists.

The first prize in the junior competition (aged 12-16) is valued at over \$2,500 and includes the sought-after Troy Cassar-Daley Ekka Junior Country Music Scholarship to the Tamworth Academy of Country Music.

The prize for the senior winner, (17 years and over), is valued at more than \$3,000 and includes a recording session and basic video package with Tamaralin sound and a photography package with Robin Reidy Photography.

Aspiring musicians should warm up their vocal chords, dust off their boots and show us what they've got – enter now - <http://www.ekka.com.au/entertainment.asp>

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