

August 11, 2026

Roll up, Roll Up! People's Day set to shine

Anticipation is building for one of Brisbane's most cherished traditions - People's Day - held tomorrow, on day five of the 2026 Royal Queensland Show presented by Bank of Queensland (BOQ).

In this milestone 150th anniversary year, the annual Ekka show day public holiday provides Queenslanders with the opportunity to come together and celebrate the Show traditions they love, while creating new memories with family and friends.

Part of Brisbane's story since 1876, People's Day was first granted for the inaugural Exhibition, with 17,000 attending out of the city's total population of 22,000 at the time.

One hundred and fifty years later, that spirit of community remains at the heart of Ekka, with more than 60,000 visitors expected through the gates for People's Day tomorrow.

Not to be missed is the iconic Grand Parade which has taken centre stage at every Ekka.

By night's end, about 40,000 people are expected to have come through the gates today.

Here's what's in store tomorrow as Queenslanders mark the 150th People's Day:

Day 5: Wednesday 12 August – HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA DOORSTOP – 11.15am tomorrow

RNA President David Thomas or Chief Executive Brendan Christou will be available on Heritage Hill overlooking the Main Arena.

JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS:

- From 8am – Dairy Cattle Competition presented by Aussie Helpers – Youth Team Challenge (from 10am), Young Paraders Competition (from 12pm), and All Breeds Youth Show (from 2pm) in Dairy Pavilion Ring, level 1, Large Animal Pavilion
- From 8am – Sheep Competition – School Wether Class, Judging Ring, level 2, Large Animal Pavilion
- From 8.30am – Horse Judging – Including Novice Galloway Hacks, Galloway Hacks, Child's Show Hunter Galloway, Child's Show Hack, Australian Ponies and Australian Saddle Ponies, Main Arena
- From 8.30am – Dog Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Working Dogs Judging in Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion and Scent Work Judging (from 9.30am) at Stockman's Rest
- From 9am – Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Group Specials and Supreme Judging – Sushi Hub Cat Precinct
- From 9.30am – Showjumping Competition – Junior and Young Rider classes, plus Holiday Prix and Junior Six-Bar (from 3pm), Main Arena

- From 9.30am – Woodchop and Sawing – Open 325mm Treefelling Championship of Australia presented by Marsh Pty Ltd (2pm), Women's 350mm Single Handed Sawing Championship of Australia (2.15pm), Open 300mm Standing Block Royal Queensland Show Championship (3.15pm), Open 450mm Double Handed Sawing Championship of Australia (5pm), Woodchop Arena presented by AAM

SEE THE STARS OF THE DAIRY RING

When: From 8am, in Large Animal Pavilion (Level 1)

Australia's top dairy exhibitors will compete for a share of \$24,000 in prize money in this year's Dairy Cattle Competition presented by Aussie Helpers, showcasing the milk quality, conformation and production potential of their animals. The competition judging kicks off on Wednesday and will include the All Breeds Youth Show from 2pm and the crowning of the Supreme Dairy Cow on Friday afternoon in the Main Arena.

BORN TO BE WOOLLY: EKKA'S SHEEP SHOWDOWN

When: From 8am in Large Animal Pavilion (Level 2)

The Fleece Breeds competitions continue to shine a spotlight on Queensland's fleece, wool and sheep industries, with 268+ entries. The Sheep Competition starts on Wednesday with the School Wether Class and will continue through the week with Open Classes on Thursday, the School Classes on Friday and culminating in the prestigious Champion of Champions judging on Saturday at 11:30am.

Ekka visitors can also admire the prize-winning fleeces on display in the Ag Education Hall throughout the Show.

BETY IS BACK AND ROLLING INTO PEOPLE'S DAY

When: "Bety" departs Roma Street at 9.06am, 9.55am, 10.37am, 11.24am, 12.05pm, 12.55pm, 2.06pm, and 2.55pm

All aboard...Bety (BB18 ¼) the iconic steam train is returning to the Brisbane Showgrounds on People's Day giving passengers the chance to experience a piece of living rail history. Travel between Roma Street and Exhibition Stations on the heritage steam locomotive (for just 50 cents) and make your Ekka visit even more memorable.

KICK UP YOUR HEELS THE CLOGGERS ARE COMING TO EKKA

When: 11am to 2pm, XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

Get ready for toe-tapping fun with the Brisbane Cloggers, a vibrant community dance group celebrating the energetic, percussive style of clogging. Blending elements of Irish step, tap, and line dancing, they perform upbeat routines to music ranging from pop and hip hop to country, bluegrass, and Latin. With dancers aged from 8 to 80, they promote confidence, creativity, and community.

FLOWER POWER MEETS BEARDS, MO's & BIG HATS

When: 12.30pm, Agricultural Education Hall

The ultimate Floral Beard Competition has been revamped to include moustaches and hats this year. Entrants will celebrate the colourful characters and country spirit that have shaped Ekka over the decades by decorating real beards, moustaches, and hats in front of a live audience on Wednesday at 12.30pm, with the final looks on display in the Grand Parade.

BOOT SCOOT, SHUFFLE AND SHINE

When: 2pm to 6pm, XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

Kick up your boots and join the party at the Ekka's Line Dancing Hoedown. With social dancing, competition demos, beginner workshops and the thrilling Queensland Club Challenge, there's something for everyone. More than 80 boot-scootin' instructors, club members, and students from across Queensland will bring the energy and fun — so get ready to dance, laugh and even learn a new step or two!

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

When: Various times, Royal Queensland Cooking Stage, Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion

Join us for fun and informative cooking demonstrations from some of the best in the business as talented chefs and passionate producers cook with Queensland's finest ingredients at the Royal Queensland Cooking Stage. On Wednesday, enjoy hearing from Chef Matt Golinski who will create dishes featuring Queensland Farmed Prawns supported by Department of Primary Industries (at 11am and 1pm), Grove Juice (3pm), Moondarra Cheese (12pm), and Blind Boy Brewing (2pm).

EYES UP – THE RAAF ROULETTES ARE COMING

When: 12.20pm, Look up!

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Roulettes will soar above the Brisbane Showgrounds on People's Day, thrilling crowds with their high-energy aerobatic display. Flying the innovative PC-21 aircraft, the full team of six pilots will demonstrate the precision, skill, and teamwork of Air Force pilots – flying as close as three metres apart and reaching speeds of up to 685 km/h.

GRAND CHAMPIONS ON PARADE

When: 1.30pm to 2.15pm, Main Arena

A wonderful Ekka tradition, the Grand Parade brings the very best of the Show into centre ring. From the tiniest Grand Champion Fish to the towering Grand Champion Stud Bull, the parade proudly showcases the champions across all competitions including goats, dairy cattle, cats, dogs, horses, horticulture, Showgirl entrants and more.

EKKA ESSENTIALS:

- Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) August 8 – 16, 2026
- Brisbane Showgrounds, 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, Queensland
- Gates open at 9am
- Tickets are available online at www.ekka.com.au
- The 2026 Ekka is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

The 2026 Ekka Media Kit is available to download. It is the most comprehensive information guide to the show – to download please visit [Media Kit](#)

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And don't forget to download the Ekka App.



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