

August 4, 2016

Roll up for the Royal Queensland Show!

The gates to Queensland's largest and most loved annual event, the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka), will open tomorrow morning in Brisbane.

Now in its 139th year, the Ekka is set to attract more than 400,000 people to its original birthplace at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said the world-class event, which had been 11 months in the making, had this year gone back to the future in a celebration of heritage.

"We are welcoming The Old Museum back to the show for the first time in 119 years, while introducing historic discounts to make this year's Ekka the best value ever." he said.

"For the first time in our history we have a brand new two day pass which means you can return to enjoy a second day of show for half price, along with 2 for 1 ride and food days.

"It has been a busy week with final preparations and finishing touches being applied to gardens, exhibitor stalls and competition displays.

"The weather forecast for tomorrow is sunny and we're looking forward to welcoming the first of our guests through the gates at 9am."

This year's Ekka will feature 10,000 animals, 21,000 competition entries, hours of free family entertainment and a smorgasbord of award-winning food and wine.

NEW TO THIS YEAR'S EKKA

THE OLD MUSEUM

After 119 years, The Old Museum is coming back home to Ekka, forming a brand new precinct for the 10 days of show. It'll be home to Ekka's Flower and Garden Exhibition presented by Envy Lawn "Grown for Life" and Quilts Across Queensland presented by Queensland Quilters. The precinct will be buzzing with a hive of activity ranging from student garden installations and community and garden society displays to outdoor dining, stunning quilts and a jam packed speaker schedule on the Flower and Garden Platform Stage. Built for the RNA in 1891, The Old Museum was originally called the Exhibition Building and Concert Hall. The Queensland Government took control of the building and grounds in 1897, following a major economic depression. It then became home of the Queensland Museum in 1899.

EkkaNITES

The Main Arena will come alive each night with the spectacular never before seen night show, EkkaNITES – featuring world firsts and showcasing incredible female talent. The night show will be made up of four main parts – tradition, the Hot Wheels High Octane Show, live music and of course the

breathtaking fireworks finale. The world-class show will feature a brand new design, more extreme sports, a tribute to Aussie Music and a brand new fireworks show featuring pyrotechnics never before seen in Australia. The Hot Wheels High Octane Show will feature the world first Sphere of Death, a jet engine propelled mini car, Hot Wheels branded V8 drift cars and the most number of FMX bikes ever seen at Ekka! EkkaNITES is being produced by Jack Ellison who has worked on blockbuster movies James Bond (Quantum of Solace) and Mission Impossible 2.

THE HERITAGE BANK LUMBERJACK SHOW

Cheer on your favourite lumberjack from the Red River Saw Mill or the Blue Mountain Logging Camp, as they compete to find out just who is the best in the bush. There's only one way to truly settle their dispute and that's with an old time lumberjack competition. From the roar of chainsaws racing, to climbing new heights by the high riggers, racing up and down a 50 foot pole, and from watching the log drivers tussle their nemesis off a log and into the drink, there will be no time to turn away. Outside of the constant action, the antics of the lumberjacks, determined to offset the other's ability and reputation as top lumberjack, will leave the crowd in stitches. This international act from Canada - full of pranks, gags and surprises - is sure to keep the audience on their toes and entertained.

NEW LOOK FASHION PARADES

The iconic Natural Fibres Fashion Parades are celebrating a special milestone. This year marks the 25th year of the parades being directed by Lindsay Bennett and will see the most captivating spectacle yet, with a special retrospective segment to open each show. Twelve of Queensland's most sought-after and long-established designers have selected a favourite piece from the last 25 years for a rare runway revival – so audiences are in for a stylish treat! It's sure to be an incredible show, with collections featuring fine-quality cotton, wool and other natural materials, in tribute to the high-quality products of the Sunshine State's agriculture industry.

Day 1: Friday 5 August – HIGHLIGHTS

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

- From 9am – Stud Beef Cattle judging, Main Arena (map reference L-6)
Champion of Champions judging 3.30pm – 4.30pm (map reference L-6)
- From 9am – Canine judging, Dog Pavilion (map reference P-9)
- From 9am – Prime Beef Auction, Expo Place (map reference P-6)
- Starts 7am - Paddock to Palate Awards Presentation Breakfast (F-10)
- From 3.10pm - Woodchop Competition Finals and Semi-Finals (E-2)

The big boys moove into the arena (map reference L-6)

In a true display of bringing the country to the city, more than 1,600 head of beef cattle will descend on the Ekka to be paraded, judged and displayed. As Australia's largest annual cattle competition, it includes 440 classes in stud beef, 27 in led steer and 14 in prime beef. The Stud Beef Competition is the largest showing of stud beef in the southern hemisphere and judging continues tomorrow in the Main Arena. **WHEN: From 9am**

The Old Museum Precinct including planting of the Royal Queensland Show rose (map reference C-13)

To celebrate The Old Museum coming home to Ekka, the RNA is releasing a brand new rose called the 'Royal Queensland Show.' It'll be planted in The Old Museum rose garden on the first morning of show and green thumbs will be able to purchase it or put their name on a wait list as more of the roses are grown. **WHEN: 9.45am**

Baby animals at the RACQ Animal Nursery (N-8)

The much loved RACQ Animal Nursery is an Ekka family favourite. It's home to more than 600 baby farmyard animals for visitors to meet and greet. All of the show favourites will be there, including lambs, calves, ducklings and goats. Ekka guests, especially the kids, love feeding and patting the farmyard animals as they wander through the nursery.

Primped pooches at the Canine Competition (map reference P-9)

The Ekka's most popular competition will once again attract entrants in all shapes and sizes. From Border Collies to Chow Chows, there will be 172 different breeds on show for Ekka guests to marvel at. The stakes are high with judges flying in from Slovenia, The Netherlands, Malaysia, Japan and Colombia to put our canine competitors to the test.

Ekka opening ceremony (map reference L-6)

On the first night of show each year, a special opening ceremony is held to welcome Ekka guests from across the state. The Mounted Police and 8th/9th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Army Brigade will join in the ceremony and The Governor of Queensland Justice Paul de Jersey will also attend. **WHEN: 6pm**

Spectacular EkkaNITES (map reference L-6)

The breathtaking EkkaNITES fireworks finale will feature a Pyrotechnic Tower never before seen in Australia. Fireworks will be fired from 49 positions on the 25 metre high tower creating a Bellagio fountain effect – shooting sideways, inwards and skywards - engulfing the entire arena in explosive light and colour. Quad motorcycles will tow 20 kites with silver fountain fireworks, while six illuminated horses will gallop around the arena changing colours before the crowd's eyes. Topping off the spectacle will be the fireworks soundtrack – a custom made mash up of jukebox classic hits mixed in the Main Arena by hot Brisbane DJ Yakedo. **WHEN: 7.45pm**

What a cracker! (map reference G-4)

Learn some cracking tricks from the best and youngest whip crackers in the region at the Australian Stockwhip Challenge presented by Packer Leather on Oval No. 2. The entrants, which include students from St Mary's and St John's, will showcase their whip cracking skills at the Ekka - they're sure to impress. **WHEN: 9.30am – 3.30pm**

The makeup king comes to Ekka (map reference F-10)

Audiences at the Natural Fibres Fashion Parades at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) are in for a day of extra excitement as Australia's Beauty Mastermind, Napoleon Perdis, comes to town. The long-term makeup sponsor of the Parades and a regular visitor to Brisbane, this will be Napoleon's first visit to Queensland's biggest annual event. He will be joined by his eldest daughter and newest face of his beauty brand, Lianna Perdis. Beauty fans have the opportunity to meet Napoleon and Lianna at an autograph session at the Mumm Entertainment and Fashion Stage. **WHEN: 1.55pm**

Ekka Essentials:

- Royal Queensland Show (Ekka)

- August 5 – 14, 2016
- 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 2016 Ekka Media Kit is now available to download. It is the most comprehensive information guide to the show, to download please visit <https://www.ekka.com.au/media-centre/media-kit>

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