



# DAYTIME ENTERTAINMENT

## Heritage Bank Racing Pigs

**When:** 11am, 12pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm & 3.30pm daily

**Where:** Stockman's Rest (O-5)

Pigs really will fly at Ekka (and no, we're not telling porkies), with the return of the wildly popular racing and diving pigs!

These brave little piggies will fly through the sky, dive into a pool of water and race each other around a track.

The pigs are extremely competitive and FAST - they can cover a 50 metre racing track in a little over five seconds!

The audience will get involved in the race. They'll be split into four sections, cheering loudly for their assigned pig.

When the last curly tail has crossed the finish line, it's time for the diving stars to make a splash.

After running up their two metre high specially designed and built diving platform, up to three little piggies will launch themselves into a diving tank.

These are the only true diving pigs in the world and hold the Guinness Book of Records for the longest dive by a pig.

Helping to lead the mesmerising pigs through their performance will be 10 year old Mater Vandeleur, who made international news when, at the age of 7, he took centre stage at the show's 2015 Ekka appearances.

One thing we know for sure – this show will not be a boar!

## MEET THE FAMILY BEHIND THE PERFORMING PIGS

### Michael and Sharleen Vandeleur

Husband and wife Michael and Sharleen run MTV Promotions Pig Racing Australia. Michael is the head pig trainer, while Sharleen assists with training and is also the starting box operator for the show.

### Mater Vandeleur

Michael and Sharleen's 10 year old son, Mater, has grown up helping his parents train the racing and diving pigs. Mater has been a media sensation since he was just three years old, when he became an on-stage pig handler for the show.

### Tom Vandeleur

Tom is Michael's Dad and a long standing MC for the racing and diving pigs. Tom and Michael first started the show 25 years ago.

## RACQ Animal Nursery

**When:** 9am-5pm daily

**Where:** Animal Boulevard (O-11)

Ekka's most adorable animals are at home in the RACQ Animal Nursery. The kids (and the big kids) will be all smiles as they get up close to more than 550 of their favourite farmyard animals on their adventure through the nursery. They'll get to feed, pat and get selfies with a range of loveable animals including calves, lambs, ducklings, chooks and goats. The RACQ Animal Nursery is a family favourite and the perfect opportunity for city kids to get up close to animals they don't normally get to see, making memories that will last a lifetime.

### Pat-a-Pig

The cutest little piggies can be found at the Pat-a-Pig display in the RACQ Animal Nursery. Ekka guests will have fun patting and sharing a cuddle with these charming little creatures.

### Cradle-a-Chick

Tiny chicks will hatch from eggs in special incubators in the RACQ Animal Nursery. Visitors can then get to know the spring chickens by cradling them in the palm of their hand. This is one experience worth chirping about!

## AG-UCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT

### Farmer Rob Show - NEW

**When:** 10.30am, 11.30am & 12.30pm daily

**Where:** Community Stage (N-15)

See the much loved Australian kids program, the Farmer Rob Show, live at Ekka.

Farmer Rob will teach kids all about life on the farm and how they can

grow their own super tasty food right at home.

With help from Sunny the Sunflower and farmhands Abbey and Audrey, Rob will show the kids how to grow seedlings in an egg carton, tell them exactly how hard farmers work and explain what type of products can be recycled.

The kids will have fun singing and dancing along to educational songs throughout the show, such as Corn Pickin, H2O and Recycling.

We're sure Farmer Rob and his helpers are going to be farmtastic!

### Rob Black

Rob is a Brisbane based musician who was once described by country great Lee Kernaghan as "one of the hottest singer/guitarists to rock Australian country since Keith Urban."

The Farmer Rob Show commenced in 2011, when Rob and his wife Kelly saw an opportunity to combine their existing experience in the entertainment industry, Rob's passion for healthy living and raising four young children.

They started writing songs for their kids that eventually became the backbone of the early Farmer Rob Show playlist.

### Crackup Sisters

**When:** 1.30pm, 2.30pm & 3.30pm daily

**Where:** Community Stage (N-15)

The energetic Crackup Sisters will give families a laugh with their hilarious stories of country Australia.

They'll perform a unique blend of comedy, whipcracking and slapstick acrobatics, as they tell stories of the outback and its larrikin characters.

Through their show, the Crackup Sisters remind people to 'get in and



give it a go,' as they tell the feats, the failings and the reality of people on the land.

The duo, Amanda-Lyn and Alyssa, are bright and energetic - they describe themselves as having the wild antics of the Looney Tunes, the heartfelt stories of Slim Dusty, the give it a go attitude of Steve Irwin and a tonne of glamour like Dame Edna.

This show is fun for the whole family.

### MEET THE SILLY SISTERS

**Amanda-Lyn Pearson and Alyssa Venning**

Based in Winton, outback Queensland, Amanda-Lyn and Alyssa have taken their show right across Australia and overseas. They've featured at the Calgary Stampede in Canada, the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas and have wowed crowds at the biggest rodeos across Australia. Amanda-Lyn and Alyssa are the world's only female rodeo clowns and in 2016 they received the Story Tellers of the Year Award from the Rural Regional and Remote Women's Network.

### Farmyard Friends Stage Show

**When: 3pm daily**

**Where: Community Stage (N-15)**

Everyone's favourite farmyard friends will take to the stage in a talent quest full of laughs.

Barbara-ann Streisand the sheep, Daisy the cow and Milo the sheep dog will battle it out with their moves and microphone on 'The Choice.'

The cuddly characters will have the crowd in stitches as they boot scoot and line dance, while singing parodies of Top 40 songs including 'I'm too Handsome for this Farm' and 'Farmloose.'

Farmer Rhonda McDonald will MC the talent quest while the audience

will judge - just who will pull out all the stops to be the star of the show?

Not only will the show be an absolute hoot, the kids will learn interesting agricultural facts along the way like how many cartons of milk a cow can produce a day (13) and how many sheep are shorn in Australia each year (more than 70 million).

With the farmyard friends' unique personalities and crazy antics, this is one show the whole family is guaranteed to love.

When they're not on stage, look out for these cuddly characters roving around Gregory Terrace at 2pm each day. They'll be eager to give kids a high five and pose for a selfie.

### Queensland State Shearing and Wool Handling Championships - NEW

**When: 11am (Round 1), 2pm (Round 2) & 5pm (Finals) August 18**

**Where: Expo Place (P-10)**

Eight of the best sheep shearers and wool handlers in Queensland will go head to head at the Queensland State Shearing and Wool Handling Championships, held at Ekka for the very first time.

Run by Sports Shear Australia-Queensland, four shearers will each give four sheep a haircut, with the shearer who records the fastest time taking out the win - it's sure to be a close shave!

The four wool handlers will then compete, being judged on how flat they can throw the fleece onto a table.

After the two rounds and finals are complete, the top three shearers and wool handlers will be revealed - they'll go on to contest the National Championships in Perth.



### Praying Mantis and Beetle Stilt Walkers - NEW

**When: 11.30am (beetle), 12.30pm (beetle), 1.30pm (praying mantis) & 4pm (praying mantis)**

**Where: Gregory Terrace (I-14)**

Lady bug and praying mantis stilt walkers will bring nature to life as they dance, wander and tiptoe through the crowds on Gregory Terrace.

For the very first time at Ekka, Empress Stilt Walkers will wow crowds with their brightly coloured and visually gorgeous costumes - perfect for a family selfie!

Based in Sydney, this international performance group has entertained crowds for 22 years in more than 18 different countries.

The stilt characters have a popular, family friendly appeal and are sure to be loved by Ekka audiences.

### Opening Ceremony

**When: 12pm August 11**

**Where: Main Arena (L-8)**

A special opening ceremony will be held on the first weekend of show, to welcome Ekka guests from across the state.

It's rich in heritage and tradition and includes the Blessing of the Plough, the sounds of the Australian Army Band Brisbane and two livestock parades featuring hundreds of the country's best beef cattle.

The show will officially be opened by his Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland.

### Grand Parade

**When: 1pm August 15**

**Where: Main Arena (L-8)**

Around 500 of the best of the best animals will be on show in the iconic Grand Parade, held on People's Day.

It's the parade of champions, from the tiny Grand Champion Fish of Show to the huge Grand Champion Stud Bull, along with ribbon-winning goats, beef cattle, dairy cattle, cats, dogs, horses and alpacas.

Certainly a sight to see, the Grand Parade also features winners from the Flower and Garden and Fine Arts sections and even Miss Showgirl will make an appearance.

### Dance Groups

**When: 10am to 4.30pm daily**

**Where: Community Stage (N-15)**

More than 50 dance groups from across Queensland will take to the Community Stage over the 10 days of show.

They'll all get the chance to showcase their talents in front of an audience, with dance genres on display from ballet to Bollywood and cheerleading to calisthenics.

The dance groups include Dancing Stars Toowoomba, V-Hub Dance, The Flamenco Studio and Poppet and Grace.

### Ekka's Dagwood Dog Eating Competition - NEW

**When: 12.30-2.30pm August 19**

**Where: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill (O-6)**

It'll be man versus food, when competitors face off in the Ekka's



inaugural Dagwood Dog Eating Competition.

These competitors will be hungry for a win, as they compete across three classes - Amateur, Professional and Celebrity.

Entering the Professional class is Australia's number two Ranked Pro Competitive Eater 'Hulk Smash Food' (aka Cal Stubbs).

He was ranked number one in the delicious sport until recently and has been a professional eater for three years - he even quit his full-time job to follow his food eating dreams.

Hulk Smash Food is the reigning Luna Park Hotdog Champion; has won Lord of the Sausage Champion four times; came third representing Australia at the World Championships in New York; was the first to finish Australia's Biggest Burger; and has eaten 5.3kg of cheesecake - he's a monster eater alright!

You won't want to miss the very first Ekka Dagwood Dog Eating Competition - it'll leave you hungry for more!

### Junior Quarter Midgets Queensland - NEW

**WHEN:** 12.15pm August 15

**WHERE:** Main Arena (L-8)

See junior speed demons race around the Main Arena in their mini vehicles.

Junior Quarter Midgets Queensland is a family motor sport designed specifically for children aged five to 16 years and they're coming to Ekka for the very first time.

The kids will hit the Main Arena track in their specially prepared quarter midget cars.

### i-Sing Karaoke - NEW

**When:** 10am-6pm August 12

**Where:** XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill (O-6)

The search is on to find Australia's best amateur singer to represent the country at the finals of the I-Sing World Championships in France in September.

For the very first time at Ekka, performers will compete karaoke style in the Queensland state and national finals of the I-Sing Australia competition.

Hosted in as many as 30 different countries, the I-Sing World Championships have become an opportunity of a lifetime for amateur singers to get their 15 minutes of fame on the world stage.

### Line Dancing Hoedown - NEW

**When:** 12-4pm Wednesday 15 August

**Where:** XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill (O-6)

Get ready for some boot-scooting fun, with the new Line Dancing Hoedown bringing even more country music and cowboy hats to XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill.

The event will include social dancing, competition demonstrations, beginner workshops for the public and the inaugural Queensland Club Challenge.

Dancing instructors, clubs and students from across Queensland will have their boots at the ready, to take part in this brand new event.

### Australian Armwrestling Federation Queensland Championships

**When:** 12-4pm August 11

**Where:** XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill (O-6)

In a battle of the bulging biceps, the Australian Armwrestling Federation will hold its Queensland Championships at Ekka.

More than 40 competitors will test their strength across three weight classes (lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight) in a double elimination competition.

From father and sons, husbands and wives to world title competitors, these strong men and women will go arm to arm in a bid to take down their opponent.

### Packer Leather Australian Stockwhip Challenge

**When:** 9am-3.30pm August 10

**Where:** Stud Sales Ring(P-4)

With their cracking routines, the best and youngest whip crackers in the region will show off their skills in the Packer Leather Australian Stockwhip Challenge.

In its fifth year at Ekka, competitors will be given a fair crack of the whip as they're judged across four classes - Pee-Wee (8yrs & under), Juvenile (12yrs & under), Junior (16yrs under) and Packer Leather Open Division (all ages).

Schools entering the competition include St John's Lutheran Primary School and St Mary's Catholic College.

These talented whip crackers are sure to impress while having a cracking good time!

### Woodchop and Sawing

**When:** 9am-7pm daily

**Where:** Woodchop Arena (C-11)

The iconic Woodchop and Sawing competition will see around 120 axemen and women compete for a share in more than \$100,000 in prizes.

The competition has a new home, with the Woodchop Arena now located near Gate 6. The all-weather indoor space was purpose built earlier this year.

A competition highlight is the Open Men's Invitational - Australia vs New Zealand, to be held at Ekka for the very first time. This international competition will see eight of the best woodchoppers from each country battle it out in underhand, standing block, tree-felling and sawing on August 14, 15 and 17 at 7pm.

### Queensland Young Farmers Challenge presented by Arrow Energy

**When:** 4.30pm-5.30pm August 11

**Where:** Main Arena (L-8)

A flurry of coloured shirts, moleskins and broad-brimmed hats will erupt on the Main Arena for the Young Farmers Challenge presented by Arrow Energy.

It's a relay-style event made up of eight team challenges incorporating everyday farm life, including carrying hay bales, rolling up a swag, constructing a cattle yard and harvesting potatoes.

The Young Farmers Challenge presented by Arrow Energy will pit eight teams against each other - all aiming to secure the glittering title of Queensland's Champion Young Farmers.