

NIGHT TIME ENTERTAINMENT

EKKANITES SUPPORTED BY RACQ LIFEFLIGHT

THE MAIN ARENA COMES ALIVE EACH NIGHT OF SHOW WITH THE SPECTACULAR NEVER BEFORE SEEN NIGHT SHOW. THE NIGHT SHOW FEATURES ACTION-PACKED ENTERTAINMENT AND TWO BREATHTAKING FIREWORKS DISPLAYS - AND THIS YEAR IT'S ALL ABOUT AUSSIE THEMED FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT AND FUTURISTIC FUN.

EKKANITES WILL FEATURE:

- CHILDREN'S FIREWORKS PRESENTED BY MG MOTOR WITH A 'COLOURS OF THE OUTBACK' THEME
- A WILD COBB & CO WAGON CHASE, FEATURING BUSHRANGERS AND ONE VERY TALENTED AUSSIE STOCKMAN
- A LOWD V8 UTE CHALLENGE STARRING EKKA'S VERY OWN BRONCO AND COWBOY UTES
- SPECIAL GUEST AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND ADAM BRAND
- EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE FEARLESS FMX RIDERS AND WHEEL STANDING MONSTER TRUCKS
- A FUTURISTIC FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR FEATURING AN EIGHT METRE HIGH SPACE SHUTTLE INSPIRED METAL TRUSS BLASTING OFF PYROS AND LAZERS

SIT BACK, STRAP IN AND PREPARE TO BE BLOWN OUT OF THIS WORLD!



6pm	Australian National Anthem - Country Music Star Adam Brand August 10 to 18
6pm	Australian National Anthem - GOLDHEIST (aka Hester Fraser) August 19
6.05pm	Children's Fireworks presented by MG Motor - Colours of the Outback
6.15pm	Queensland Harness Racing presented by Racing Queensland
6.25pm	Farmyard Friends Ride and Drive presented by MG Motor
6.35pm	Lone Ranger and Tonto Time Trial
6.50pm	Wild Colonial Wagon Chase
7.05pm	Coca-Cola Dance Off with Legendary Country Singer Adam Brand
7.10pm	Lowd V8 UTES Super Challenge - Bronco vs Cowboy
7.20pm	Wheel Standing Monster Trucks Competition
7.30pm	Showtime FMX: Battle of the Golden Helmet II
7.45pm	Fireworks Spectacular - Futuristic Fantasy
8pm	Meet the Stars Under the Stars



Sammie O'Brien



Adam Brand



Lone Ranger

Compere - Sammie O'Brien

Sammie O'Brien is no stranger to the Ekka action, having dusted off her Akubra to help MC EkkaNITES presented by RACQ LifeFlight last year.

Joining Network Seven's Queensland Weekender as their youngest team member ever at just 22, Sammie has grown to become one of the show's best-loved presenters.

Since joining the show, Sammie has expanded her presentation role to include major events, including the Channel Seven Brisbane Racing Carnival.

Special Guest - Adam Brand

Adam Brand is celebrating 20 years as one of Australia's top country music artists.

So far in his career, he has sold more than 600,000 albums, had four ARIA nominations, won 12 Golden Guitar Awards and taken home seven CMC OZ Artist of the Year Awards.

Adam has wowed crowds at his sell-out concerts, toured with Taylor Swift and was a series winner on the Channel 7 television show Dancing with the Stars.

Adam will join Sammie during the night show from August 10 to 18 as a special guest.

Australian National Anthem - Adam Brand and GOLDHEIST (Hester Fraser)

Country music legend Adam Brand will sing the Australian National Anthem during the night show from Friday 10 to Saturday 18 August.

Adam is one of Australia's most loved and well-known country music voices.

While on Sunday 19 August, the Australian National Anthem will be performed by GOLDHEIST, aka Hester Fraser.

Having been compared to the likes of Kate Bush and Ellie Goulding, GOLDHEIST has many original songs to her name including 'The Camellia Tree' which she wrote as a musical tribute to her grandfather, the late Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser.

During the Australian National Anthem eight riders on horseback will proudly fly Australian flags, with pyro glittering from each flag for the very first time during the night show.

Children's Fireworks presented by MG Motor - Colours of the Outback

For the second year, kids won't have to wait up past their bedtime to see spectacular fireworks light up the Ekka sky, with children's fireworks at 6.05pm.

This year's theme is 'celebrating all things Australian,' with fireworks in the colours of the stunning Australian outback firing high into the sky - from the orange of the outback to the blue of summer thunderstorms.

The fireworks will be complemented by imagery of Aussie traditions including Vegemite, meat pies, kangaroos and Tim Tams - even the famous Australian boxing kangaroo.

The spectacle will also feature the much-loved LED brumbies, galloping in formation as they change colour before the crowds' eyes.

Adding to the stunning display will be a large Rainbow Serpent, cleverly created by 11 motorbikes carrying red flares. It's said in Aboriginal culture, when a rainbow is seen in the sky it's the serpent travelling from one waterhole to another - the reason why some waterholes never dry up.

The children's fireworks display will be set to an all-Australian soundtrack featuring TV jingles we all know and love, like Aeroplane Jelly and Cottee's Fruit. It'll also feature classic Oz rock and Aussie pop tunes from stars including Kylie Minogue and Sheppard, cleverly mixed with well-known children's songs including favourites from the Wiggles.

Each night a lucky child will win the chance to push the special

fireworks plunger, getting the stunning display off to a firing start.

Queensland Harness Racing presented by Racing Queensland

The legendary trots will stomp their mark on the Main Arena.

The hot to trot horses and their brave drivers will wow the crowds with this true Ekka tradition, which has long thrilled audiences.

Trots were a show staple up until 2002 - they then made a comeback in 2014 and have been tearing around the quarter mile Main Arena track ever since.

Farmyard Friends Ride and Drive presented by MG Motor

Two forms of horse power will be on display, in this exciting race led by everyone's favourite farmyard friends.

The four team captains, Hayden the horse, Barbara the sheep, Daisy the cow and Milo the sheep dog will each have a team of two people.

The cuddly characters will get the crowd cheering madly for their favourite team, as their riders jump onto a horse and leap over barriers - accompanied by adorable miniature ponies.

The riders will then tag their team drivers who will rev up the race by tearing a lap around the Main Arena in an MG ZS.

The team that completes the course first will win the prestigious MG Cup and of course bragging rights!

Lone Ranger and Tonto Time Trial

Inspired by equine heroes from the big screen - the Lone Ranger and Tonto will go head to head in a high speed time trial.

Picture this, two galloping horses and a rider standing on their backs, with a truck travelling around the Main Arena at high speed.

Now Tonto has to gallop up to the trailer, leap off his horse, climb up a ladder onto the moving rooftop trailer, before running along the roof to stop the clock - just like you would see in the movies!

Now the real fun starts as the Lone Ranger tries to beat Tonto's time - Hi Ho Silver!

Featuring Dave Manchon and Donal Hancock, the show is dangerous, exciting and fast and sure to make those watching catch their breath.

See bios for Dave and Donal under the *Wild Colonial Wagon Chase*.

Wild Colonial Wagon Chase

To the shout of 'all aboard,' Ekka guests will take their seat for a colonial show featuring a story full of frocks, fun, bulls and wagon wheels.

The show rolls into the Main Arena with a Cobb & Co carriage pulled by four magnificent work horses and a ground shaking cattle stampede featuring 20 bulls, sure to blow the dust off any cowboy hat!

With the bulls mustered into their yard in spectacular fashion, two clever canines will round up a mob of sheep, led by professional sheep dog handlers Adam Miller and Craig Freestone.

All seems to be running smoothly in this quiet colonial town, with the locals, played by members of the Queensland Historical Society, happily going about their day - but not for long!

The once peaceful town is thrown into chaos when some bushrangers decide to pay a visit.

The horses leading the carriage get spooked and take off, leading a brave stockman on a high speed horseback chase to bring the runaway wagon to a halt - but can he leap from the horse onto the moving coach in time?

The hair-raising show, performed by the Rooftop Express, includes a salute to a time in Queensland when Cobb & Co was king and those who pioneered the tracks they took are the legends and heroes now found in our movies, books and poetry.



Dave Manchon



MEET THE EXTRAORDINARY EQUINE ARTISTS

Dave Manchon

Leading industry identity and show creator Dave performs right across Australia with his spectacular equine shows and has a list of world first stunts to his name. The Aussie stockman has worked in both film and television alongside his talented livestock, including training the hero horse from the movie *Shadows of the Past* and being a guest presenter on TV shows such as *Totally Wild* and *Toasted TV*. Previously, Dave spent more than a year starring in the Australian Outback Spectacular.

Donal Hancock

Donal grew up on a cattle station in Injune, Queensland. He has performed in the Australian Outback Spectacular and was taken on by 'Double Dan Horsemanship' where he trained and travelled throughout the USA and Canada furthering his horse skills. He also established 'Hancock Horsemanship' to share what he has learnt.

Breanna Cook

Rising equine star Breanna grew up in Monto, Queensland. She started trick riding at just 10 years of age and became hooked on the sport. After graduating Year 12, Breanna decided to focus on her horses and now holds kids horsemanship clinics through her business Breanna Jayne Horsemanship, where she teaches basic trick riding, general horsemanship and confidence building.

Matt Jones

Carriage Master and third-generation horseman, Matt, will explain the stories and traditions behind the legacy of the Cobb & Co coach during the show. He is the founder of Cobb & Co Carriages Victoria in Bendigo and the great grandson of the infamous bushranger Ben Hall.

Coca-Cola Dance Off with Legendary Country Singer Adam Brand

Country music star Adam Brand will have the crowd up and dancing from August 10 to 18, for their chance to win a prize.

The second they hear his song 'Get On Your Feet,' they'll know it's time to do exactly that as the dance cam makes its way around the Main Arena.

Each night, one lucky budding singer will also win the chance to belt out the song on the Main Arena in a duet with Adam himself!

On the last night of show, Ekka DJ Justin Isaac, or as we like to call him the 'master of mixes,' will mix together a special soundtrack for the crowd to dance along to.

Lowd V8 UTES Super Challenge - Bronco vs Cowboy

The Ekka's very own Bronco and Cowboy will rev it up in this exciting challenge.

Two utes will perform awe-inspiring driving manoeuvres and spectacular stunts in a precision driving display, including reverse hand break turn flicks, spins and slides - with two of Australia's leading V8 drivers, Gary Baxter and Neville Whittenbury, behind the wheels.

The drivers will then turn up the heat in a thrilling race and will even throw in some burnouts and donuts for the rev heads out there.

Country music legend Adam Brand will also make an appearance from August 10 to 18. He's Gary's old V8 Ute racing rival and he'll be issuing Gary a challenge - we just hope these boys learn to play nice!

MEET THE DARING DRIVERS

Gary Baxter

Gary is one of Australia's leading drivers and has been competing in various classes for more than 20 years. He's a two-time Australian

ROH Wheels Commodore Cup Champion, having taken out the series in both 1995 and 1996. Gary started the motorsport business Trackskill in 1997, armed with a wealth of experience.

Neville Whittenbury

Rally driver Neville started competing at the age of 13 at club level. He then progressed to state level where he won the Two Wheel Drive South Australian Rally Championship three times and finished as high as fourth outright competing against much faster four wheel drive turbo cars. Neville has also contested the Rally of Otago classic car rally in New Zealand three times.

Wheel Standing Monster Trucks Competition

With their high octane revving engines, these monster trucks are sure to put on an action-packed show.

Raw Steel and Metal Cruncher, driven by thrill-seeking father and son Sam and Michael Xuereb, will go head to head (or back to back) in a rear wheel standing competition - a bit of friendly family rivalry!

Balancing a four and a half tonne monster truck is no easy feat and requires incredible control - will it be father or son who proves to be the most skilled?

The monster trucks will also thrill fans when they take on quad bikes and motorbikes in the competition. Will the taller trucks smash the smaller bikes or will a two wheeler show up the four wheelers?

The monster trucks will also launch off jump ramps and perform wheelies during the show, in a true display of their powerful potential.

This extreme action is sure to have the crowds cheering for more, with the monster trucks always a show favourite.

MEET THE DAREDEVIL DRIVERS

Sam Xuereb

Sam is one of the best in the country when it comes to driving monster

trucks. He holds the world record for the longest wheelie in a monster truck at 157 metres (518 feet), along with the world record for the furthest wheelie on a quad bike in reverse - half a kilometre! It's Sam's eighth year performing in the night show.

Michael Xuereb

Michael is Sam's 24 year old son and having been raised by a monster truck fanatic Michael started early. Almost a decade ago, he performed the longest jump in the world in a UTV (Polaris 800) at 29 metres (96 feet) and was the first person in the world to backflip a UTV from one ramp to another.

FATHER & SON'S WORLD RECORDS

Longest wheelie in a monster truck - 157 metres (518 feet) - Sam

Furthest wheelie on a quad bike in reverse - 500 metres - Sam

Longest jump in a UTV (Polaris 800) - 29 metres (96 feet) - Michael

First person in the world to backflip a UTV from one ramp to another - Michael

ShowTime FMX: Battle for the Golden Helmet II

The Outback Outlaws are back to even the score against the Urban All Stars, in the Battle for the Golden Helmet II.

Last year during the night show, the Urban All Stars took home the prestigious golden helmet, after a thrilling FMX battle featuring nail-biting racing and flawless aerial tricks. But can they make it two in a row when the FMX riders backflip, superman, fly high and speed race around the Main Arena?

The crowd will cheer on their favourite team in some good versus bad rivalry, as eight talented riders tear it up.

Robbie Marshall, Brad Burch, Kain Saul and Scott Fitzgerald from ShowTime FMX are some of the world's most talented riders and are guaranteed to wow crowds as they fly high off the jump ramp.



Joining them are four of Queensland's top female motocross riders from MX Racing Divas including Chrissy McCarthy, Lauren Jones and Jamie Sanders. They'll be ripping up the dirt track in style.

With two girls and two guys on each team, will good or bad prevail to win the Golden Helmet?

MEET THE FEARSOME FMX RIDERS

Robbie Marshall

Robbie started riding when he was just three years old and has represented Australia at FMX of Nations in Germany, along with being in the top three in Australia for MX racing for multiple years. Robbie was also a stunt rider for the blockbuster movie Mad Max Fury Road.

Brad Burch

After performing his first backflip in 2005 at just 17 years of age, Brad's career took off. He rode in the first ever Nitro Circus Live Tour alongside the best riders in the world and has been travelling internationally with FMX for the past six years in a row.

Kain Saul

Kain sure knows how to pull off incredible tricks. When he was 17 years old he was the youngest in the world to backflip and he was also the first in the world to backflip on a Harley Davidson. The 2008 Australasian freestyle champion also toured with Crusty Demons for six years and with Nitro Circus for three.

Scott Fitzgerald

Scott's freestyle career started in 2007, backflipping mini bikes for the Crusty Demons tour. Since then he has travelled to more than 20 countries, riding for Nitro Circus over the past eight years.

Chrissy McCarthy

At just 16 years of age, Chrissy has won five Go Girls Championships and has two Queensland State Title wins to her name. Chrissy started racing at age four and competed at the National Junior Titles when she was just 12.

Lauren Jones

Lauren has been racing for 15 years and has won two Queensland State Titles and two Go Girls Racing Titles. The 21 year old has also competed at the National Titles on a number of occasions and has finished in the top five.

Jamie Sanders

Jamie is part of the Crazy Dogs Kawasaki Race Team. The 19 year old has competed at many state and national championship series over the years, with several podium finishes.

Fireworks Spectacular - Futuristic Fantasy

The breathtaking Fireworks Spectacular blasts into the night sky with a futuristic fantasy theme, inspired by the iconic movies War of the Worlds, Space Odyssey and Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

3,2,1... lift off

Kicking off, or lifting off, the famous Ekka fireworks display will be an eight metre high space shuttle inspired circular metal truss, with fireworks blasting off it. The high-tech truss, complete with lighting, coloured lasers, fog machines and LED screens, is sure to be the star of the show.

World first:

A comet will pass by the audience, with a world-first 'fireball' vehicle created using a buggy strapped with a whole heap of pyro - it'll travel at high speed around the Main Arena.

Australian first:

With the space journey continuing, the crowd will witness shooting stars. In an Australian first, six remote control cars with pyros will zoom around the arena at more than 100km an hour! The highly-skilled drivers from the Queensland Radio Circuit Car Racing Association will impress the crowd by how they manoeuvre the cars at high speed.

Ekka firsts:

The show will feature 150 firing points - more firing points than ever before in a 360 design. Pyros will fire from the space shuttle inspired truss and from remote control cars and motorbikes, while quad bike riders will have pyros strapped to their backs.

For the first time at Ekka, a flamethrower imported from Germany will be used to turn up the temperature. Inspired by the storm troopers in Star Wars, a futuristic space soldier armed with the device will shoot flames more than three metres into the air.

Also featuring in the show is the powerful Combat Dragon vehicle. Powered by a jet engine, this mini car is sure to impress as it blasts around the Main Arena with 30ft flames shooting out the back!

EKKANITES BY THE NUMBERS

- 2.5 tonnes+ of fireworks used each night
- 20km+ of computer data cable used to control the effects within the arena
- 150 fireworks shooting positions
- 159 lighting fixtures around the grounds

Meet the Stars Under the Stars

Once the action has drawn to a close, the audience can meet their favourite stars. The talented performers will make their way around the outside of the Main Arena, chatting to fans, signing autographs and of course posing for selfies!

4KQ Greatest Seats in the House

If you didn't think the view from the Greatest Seats in the House could get any better, think again! This year the lucky competition winners will sit in the back of a monster truck. They'll view the night show from

prime position, as the 10 seater monster truck, custom built in the USA, moves along with the entertainment.

THE MEN BEHIND EKKANITES SUPPORTED BY RACQ LIFEFLIGHT

Jack Ellison

For the sixth year, the show will be produced by entertainment extraordinaire Jack Ellison. Jack is a professional athlete turned special events producer who has worked on blockbuster films including James Bond Quantum of Solace and Mission Impossible 2 and is a Gold Logie winner of the prestigious Australian Events Awards. Taking entertainment to the extreme has always been Jack's philosophy.

Max Brunner

The Director of Skylighter FireworX is back for a fourth year, with a brand new spectacular display never before seen in Australia. Max, who has been involved with major events both nationally and internationally, has sourced the latest in pyrotechnic products from around the globe, created especially for the night show!

Ash Neuendorf

This is Ash's second year working on EkkaNITES. He has been at the forefront of major events nationally and overseas. Ash really pushes the boundaries when it comes to lighting and this year's show will be no different, using 3D modelling and new lighting fixtures to add that extra wow factor.

Justin Isaac

All the way from the USA and creating the fireworks soundtrack for the very first time is internationally renowned stage show producer, choreographer and music director Justin Isaac. Justin has produced electronic dance music covers for Muscle Mixes Music in California and has also written and produced soundtracks for his own acclaimed Justin Illusion Show, running for more than 25 years.