



FLOWER AND GARDEN STAGE HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT	WHEN
School Scarecrow Competition sponsored by Total Building Maintenance Awards Presentation	10am August 10
RSPCA	11.30am August 10, 13, 14, 16 & 17
QPS Dog Squad	1.45pm August 10, 13, 14, 16 & 17
Water Warriors	3pm August 10; 10am & 3pm August 13, 14, 16 & 17
Bush Poetry (Open & Student classes)	9.30am August 11
Floristry Competition - Student Mystery Box	8.30am August 15
Flower Beard Competition	11am August 15
Floristry Competition - Open Mystery Box	2pm August 15
AMIC Sausage King and Best Butchers Burger	9.30am August 19

THE OLD MUSEUM

The Old Museum (D-15)

For the third year, The Old Museum will be a green thumbs paradise, buzzing with a hive of activity from stunning garden displays to hands-on horticultural activities and blooming great entertainment on the Flower and Garden Stage.

In 2016, The Old Museum came home to Ekka for the first time in 119 years, becoming the base for the show's Flower and Garden precinct and Quilts Across Queensland.

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, when the RNA was forced into liquidation by the economic depression. It then became home of the Queensland Museum in 1899.

NEW

- Flower and Garden Stage - new entertainment
- Cosmic Star Dome

- Making Gardening Accessible - Everyone, Everywhere
- Our Backyard by Claire Bickle
- Workshop Marquee
- Floristry Competition
- Education on Show

RETURNING

- Sugarcane Maze
- Flower Crown Activity
- Potted Plants presented by Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland
- Rocky Point Verge Garden Competition
- School Gardening Competition sponsored by Total Building Maintenance
- School Scarecrow Competition sponsored by Total Building Maintenance

- Horticultural Display Competition
- Bush Poetry Competition
- Quilts Across Queensland

Flower and Garden Stage

Families are sure to have a great 'thyme' at the Flower and Garden Stage at The Old Museum.

New this year:

- **Water Warriors show** - by Queensland Urban Utilities not to be 'mist,' encouraging kids to help save the planet by saving water
- **RSPCA show** - teaching children how to best look after their pets around native wildlife - a large diamond python will even make an appearance!
- **QPS Dog Squad** - meet the clever canines from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Dog Squad - the kids will love the police puppies
- **Floristry Competition Mystery Box Challenge** - which will see budding florists create a pedestal display live on stage using the provided flowers, horticultural materials and accessories. They'll be given 90 minutes to come up with a display that fits the Aussie backyard theme

Returning:

- The hugely popular Flower Beard Competition - which will see florists decorate Brisbane's best beards. This competition went viral on the Ekka's social media last year!

Cosmic Star Dome

Stargazers will step inside the new Cosmic Star Dome to see what the night sky looks like from a rural area in Queensland, without light pollution getting in the way.

Using projection technology, the dome provides a realistic recreation of the planets, stars and constellations, from the Milky Way to the big dipper.

The stars will mesmerisingly move around the dome, immersing visitors in a virtual reality of the night sky.

Making Gardening Accessible - Everyone, Everywhere

A slice of the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in London is coming to the Ekka this year, with Vegepod recreating their exhibit in a display titled 'Making Gardening Accessible - Everyone, Everywhere.'

The company was invited to the most famous flower and garden show



The hugely popular Flower Beard Competition is back for a second year

in the world in May 2018 as a guest exhibitor, showcasing Vegepod and highlighting its accessible gardening and urban farming features. Using edible and sensory plants and props, the display will show how gardens can be created in any location - at home, at work or in the community. It will also touch on the urban farming revolution, urging people to get growing in backyards and on rooftops and balconies.

Our Backyard by Claire Bickle

Featuring at Ekka for the very first time, Our Backyard will showcase a collection of backyard designs guaranteed to inspire that landscaper inside.

Four concepts will be showcased at The Old Museum - Edible Patch featuring a bean teepee; Everyday Living with a hills hoist and living pots; Productive Pets with a chicken coop and banana tree; and Urban Habitat featuring a birdbath, pond and native stingless bees.

The designer, Claire Bickle, has been a qualified horticulturist for more than two decades.

Workshop Marquee

Kids will dig gardening after getting their hands dirty in the new Workshop Marquee.

There are three workshops on offer - planting tomato seeds with Sow Great; looking at and learning about bugs; and having a go at origami, which is the ancient art of paper folding.

The free workshops will be held constantly throughout the day and all kids need to do is 'turnip.'

Sugarcane Maze

Kids will have an 'a-maze-ing' time as they navigate their way through the Sugarcane Maze.

Run by Orienteering Queensland, children will get lost in the excitement of finding their way out of the large maze made from sugarcane mulch.

They'll be given a map to help, but it'll still be a tricky task!

Flower Crown Activity

Flower crowns remain a popular trend and people of all ages will once again be given the chance to make their own at Ekka.

With the help of local florists, Ekka guests will be given a box containing fresh flowers and the necessary craft materials to make a pretty flower crown to wear around show.

This activity was a hit in 2017, with everyone having a bunch of fun!

COMPETITION DISPLAYS

Floristry Competition

The brand new Floristry Competition will see florists and students create stunning table centrepieces.

The competition features five classes, with entrants to create wedding table and corporate table centrepieces for display in The Old Museum.

There are also two Mystery Box Challenges (Classes 4 and 5) on the Flower and Garden Stage on Wednesday 15 August, which will see budding florists create a pedestal display live on stage using the provided flowers, horticultural materials and accessories.

They'll be given 90 minutes to come up with a creation that fits the Aussie backyard theme, to then be displayed in The Old Museum.

School Garden Competition presented by Total Building Maintenance

Budding horticultural students will get creative in the School Gardening Competition, with this year's theme 'bringing biodiversity back to our backyard.'

Students will create a garden habitat that provides a suitable home for living species including butterflies, birds and lizards. The backyard gardens will incorporate natural elements such as water and shelter.

Judging will take place on Sunday 12 August at 1.30pm.

School Scarecrow Competition presented by Total Building Maintenance

Students will create some frightfully fun scarecrows in the School



See 'sew' many stunning quilts at the Quilts Across Queensland display

Scarecrow Competition.

There are two classes this year, with Class 1 to create a scarecrow that will attract animals rather than scare them away and Class 2 to create a scarecrow that resembles their teacher - there should be some interesting entries!

The awards presentation will be held on Friday 10 August at 10am on the Flower and Garden Stage.

Potted Plants presented by Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland

The Potted Plants Competition covers a wide variety of plants from ferns and palms to bonsai, cacti and orchards.

The beautiful plants in their decorative pots will be on display on level one of The Old Museum building.

Rocky Point Verge Garden Competition

Those wandering around The Old Museum will come across the entries in the Verge Garden competition.

A verge garden features ornamental, native or edible plants and is grown on a footpath to beautify an area.

Horticultural Display Competition

The Horticultural Display Competition features vibrant living displays, put together by those in the horticulture industry, from professional organisations to community groups, design students and individuals.

Quilts Across Queensland

'Sew' many stunning modern and traditional style quilts will be on display inside The Old Museum.

Now in its 17th year, the Quilts Across Queensland competition features work from both amateur and professional quilt makers including the award-winners - Best of Show, Best Use of Colour, Hangers' Choice Award and Viewer's Choice Award.

The Viewer's Choice award gives Ekka guests the chance to vote for their favourite design.

There will also be a sewing demonstration, for those wanting to further their quilting skills.

Bush Poetry

Queensland's most poetic will take to the stage at The Old Museum to belt out some bush ballads.

These passionate poets will each get six minutes of fame, reciting everything from Banjo Patterson to their own original work.

Both the open and school classes will be judged on Saturday 11 August from 9.30am on the Flower and Garden Stage.

Education on Show

The Education on Show competition showcases work by Queensland students, with the display being housed at The Old Museum for the very first time.

In honour of the 2018 Commonwealth Games being held in Queensland this year, the competition follows a 'hero' theme. Students have been asked to identify someone they consider to be a hero, exploring all fields including medical, arts, science, sporting, political and volunteer work - even family and friends.