

17 August 2018

## Shear fun in store as champions crowned

There's just two days left to enjoy the Ekka and tomorrow the grand champions in canine, cat and kittens will be crowned the best in show, while we also unearth the next up and coming country music stars.

For the first time at Ekka, the Queensland State Shearing and Wool Handling Championships will be held as the state's best compete for honours. Meanwhile the Country Music Showdown Competition presented by Ringers Western will see budding artists compete for more than \$13,000 in cash and prizes.

Tomorrow the Main Arena will feature some of the show's youngest competitors in the Horse Competition's Junior Riding Classes. But today, it was all about the Dairy Cattle reigning supreme as about 30,000 are expected to have come through the gates by night's end.

Here's what's in store for Day 9 at the Royal Queensland Show:

### **DAY 9: Saturday 18 August – HIGHLIGHTS**

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

#### **JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- From 8am- 12noon – Junior Horse Riding – Main Arena
- From 9am-5pm – Alpaca Judging – Stock Pavilion
- From 9am – Canine Judging – Dog Pavilion
- **2pm – Best In Show – Canine – Dog Pavilion**
- From 9am – Cat judging – Animal Nursery
- **12 noon – Supreme Cat and Kitten of Show – RACQ Animal Nursery**
- 2pm – Wool Handling judging final
- 10am – 4pm – Qld Sheep Shearing Championships
- **3.00pm – Qld Sheep Shearing State Final**

#### **CLICK GO THE SHEARS**

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 skirt and 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.

**WHEN: 11am (Round 1), 2pm (Round 2) and 5pm (Finals) WHERE: Expo Place**

### **UNEARTHING THE NEXT COUNTRY MUSIC STAR!**

The Country Music Showdown Competition presented by Ringers Western has been helping to launch the careers of Queensland's up and coming country artists for the past five years. Budding music stars will have the chance to share in more than \$13,000 worth of cash and prizes, that will help excel their Nashville dreams. Artists aged 12 years and over will get the ultimate music experience, performing to Ekka crowds backed by Brisbane based live band Southwest. **WHEN: 10.30am - 1pm (Junior); 3.30pm - 6pm (Open) WHERE: XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill**

### **3 YEAR OLD HORSE RIDERS TAKE CENTRE STAGE**

There will be an overload of cuteness when the Show's youngest competitors, the 3 year old entrants in the Horse Competition's Junior Riding Classes lead their ponies in the Main Arena tomorrow morning. Don't miss these budding Ekka equine champions! **WHEN: From 8am WHERE: Main Arena**

### **PAW-FECT DOG TO BE CROWNED**

The pawsome pooches will shine tomorrow with the Best in Show to be crowned at the Dog Pavilion. The Canine Competition presented by Black Hawk is one of our largest and most popular competitions, attracting around 2,300 entries this year. **WHEN: 2pm WHERE: Dog Pavilion**

### **NO PUSSY FOOTING AROUND!**

Also tomorrow the Supreme Cat AND Kitten of Show is set to be crowned after 8 days of judging. Don't miss one of the great Champion of Show moments. **WHEN: Noon WHERE: RACQ Animal Nursery**

### **MEET AN ALPACA**

They've alpaca-ed their bags to come to Ekka to star in the Alpaca and Alpaca Fleece Competition. These striking animals will be shown across 5 colour classes – white, light fawn, roan, grey and fancy (an unusual distribution of colour). Their fleeces will also be judged – see if they feel as soft as your winter woollies. **WHEN: - 9am-5pm WHERE: - Stock Pavilion**

### **HOME AND AWAY HOTTIES**

Making Ekka their home tomorrow will be the young male stars of Channel 7's popular show Home and Away, Orpheus Pledger and Lukas Radovich. The boys will take in some Ekka attractions and will meet their fans at 7 Live Studios. **WHEN: 11am and 2.30pm WHERE: 7 Live Studios**

**REMEMBER: Donations can be made in support of the Queensland Drought Appeal at [www.qlddroughtappeal.com.au](http://www.qlddroughtappeal.com.au) or by texting the word drought to 0484 200 200.**

#### **Ekka Essentials:**

- Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) August 10 – 19, 2018
- Brisbane Showgrounds, 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, Queensland
- Gates open at 9am
- Tickets are available online at [www.ekka.com.au](http://www.ekka.com.au)

**EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

The 2018 Ekka Media Kit is now available to download. It is the most comprehensive information guide to the show – to download please visit [www.ekka.com.au/media-centre/media-kit](http://www.ekka.com.au/media-centre/media-kit)

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