

August 12, 2026

Ekka-straordinary turnout for historic People's Day

By night's end more than 65,000 people will have streamed through the Ekka gates today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Queensland Show presented by Bank of Queensland (BOQ) People's Day public holiday.

Massive crowds turned out to enjoy the traditional Show Day holiday, which showcased the Grand Parade of champion animals, a packed program of special one day live entertainment shows, and the thrills of Sideshow Alley.

With great weather and temperatures predicted for the next two days, come on down Queensland and take advantage of Super Saver days for tomorrow and Friday with 20% off tickets plus the free child Dreamworld ticket offer for every purchaser of a child Ekka ticket on 13 and 14 August.

Here's what's in store for Day 6 of the Royal Queensland Show presented by Bank of Queensland (BOQ) tomorrow:

Day 6: Thursday 13 August – HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA DOORSTOP – 11.15am tomorrow

RNA President David Thomas or Chief Executive Brendan Christou will be available on Heritage Hill overlooking the Main Arena.

JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS:

- From 8am – Sheep Competition – Open Class, Judging Ring, level 2, Large Animal Pavilion
- From 8.30am – Horse Judging – Including Show Hunter Ponies – Novice and Open; Riding Ponies – Led and Under Saddle; Warmblood Horses – Led and Under Saddle; Child's Show Hunter Pony and Novice Pony Hacks, Main Arena
- From 8.30am – Dog Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Terriers and Cocker Spaniel Judging in Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion
- From 9am – Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub – PAT-A-CAT All-Breed Showcase supported by Plush Puppy – Sushi Hub Cat Precinct
- From 3pm – Showjumping Competition – Jump Off Competitions, Main Arena
- From 9.30am – Woodchop and Sawing – Open 350mm Underhand Championship of Australia (3.24pm) and Open 275mm Standing Block Handicap (4.20pm), Woodchop Arena presented by AAM

- From 12 midday – Farriers and Blacksmiths Competition – Junior and Senior Novice Blacksmithing, Elite Intermediate and Open Blacksmithing, and Decorative Blacksmithing.

CLASH OF THE HAMMERS & MASTERS OF THE FORGE

When: From 12 midday, Stockman's Rest

The largest farriers and blacksmiths competition in the southern hemisphere takes place at the Ekka, with 280+ entries this year. Judging will take place from Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 August at Stockman's Rest. The competition features a range of classes from blacksmithing to forging and shoeing for horses – catering to all skill levels including Junior Novice and Masters (50 Years and Over). A highlight is the Decorative Blacksmithing class on Thursday at 12pm, where exhibitors have one hour to craft a functional item that showcases artistic flair.

GALLOPING OUT OF RETIREMENT

When: 11am, 2pm & 3pm - Show Ring

Join acclaimed horse trainer Dave Manchon and his team of well-known retired racehorses in the Horsing Around Show presented by Queensland Off-The-Track. Dave will showcase his unique training methods and how they help these off-the-track champions transition into new careers. This engaging and educational show highlights the incredible potential of these equine athletes beyond the racetrack, proving their journey is far from over!

PURR-FECT CATS ON SHOW

When: From 9am, Sushi Hub Cat Precinct

Preened to purr-fection, more than 50 breeds of cats will be showcased in the Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub at Ekka – from long haired Persians to short haired Siamese, and also the cutest kittens. From Thursday to Saturday the PAT-A-CAT (All-Breed) Showcase supported by Plush Puppy is an informative, educational and interactive experience with breeders, competitors and breed clubs invited to showcase their cats, plus Breed Talks each day at 10.30am, 12.30pm, and 2.30pm. On Sunday enjoy watching the judging of the Kitten and Desexed Cat Show.

TERRIERS GO TOE TO TOE

When: From 8.30am, Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion

Terriers will dominate centre stage at the Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion on Thursday. Paws will be posing as handlers take West Highland Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Jack Russell Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Bull Terriers, Tenterfield Terriers and many more through their paces. Though often small in stature, they make up for it with their fearless attitude and can be determined, courageous and willing to go to the ground in search of their quarry.

MUST TRY EKKA EATS

Around the Showgrounds

Some of the iconic Ekka eats have been around for years and keep getting better...like the delicious Dagwood Dogs, Twisted Potatoes, Butter Board Sandwiches, sweet Strawberry Sundaes, Fairy Floss and the CWA scones with jam and cream. For the 150th anniversary *Pinks since 1963* has even

given the classic cheese toastie a pink twist that's as delicious as it is eye-catching. Amongst the range of new Ekka foods you can't miss the magical dessert experience, Dragon Breath Ice Cream Dumplings; the ultimate grab and go treat – the Sip and Dumpling Cup – and Chicken Nuggets with Caviar.

FROCK UP FOR FABULOUS DRAG QUEEN BINGO

When: From 8.30pm till late, XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill

One of Ekka's most dazzling nights, Drag Queen Bingo will roll into the Ekka on Thursday with a Priscilla Queen of the Desert takeover in 2026! Led by one of Brisbane's favourite queens, Vollie LaVont, this high-energy spectacle channels the spirit of the classic Aussie film, combined with show-stopping lip-syncs, disco anthems, and bold, over-the-top costumes dripping in feathers and excess...and of course bingo!

EKKA ESSENTIALS:

- Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) August 8 – 16, 2026
- Brisbane Showgrounds, 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, Queensland
- Gates open at 9am
- Tickets are available online at www.ekka.com.au
- The 2026 Ekka is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

The 2026 Ekka Media Kit is available to download. It is the most comprehensive information guide to the show – to download please visit [Media Kit](#)

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And don't forget to download the Ekka App.



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