



MUSIC

NEW - ISAIAH FIREBRACE

WHEN: 3pm - 3.45pm, August 16

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (I-13)

The highest streamed First Nations pop artist in the world, Isaiah Firebrace (aka Isaiah) has an incredible story to tell. The Australian pop singer is a soulful baritone vocalist who transformed from a small-town Indigenous singer with big dreams, to one of Australia's most successful artists. Along the way he's won The X Factor 2016, was signed to Sony Music, represented Australia at the Eurovision Song Contest 2017 finishing 9th, and reached Double Platinum in Australia, Platinum in Norway and Sweden and Gold in Denmark with more than half a billion streams across his music. Isaiah not only works on his music nowadays but is passionate about bringing awareness to Indigenous issues around Australia such as implementing more education about First-Nation's people and culture. In his first performance at Ekka, Isaiah will certainly make an impact fusing his pop stylings with soulful influences.

MULTICULTURAL PLAZA HIGHLIGHTS

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| Saturday August 12 11:45am-2:30pm | Royal Australian Airforce Rockband |
| Sunday August 13 4:15pm-7pm | Australian Idol's Ben Sheehy |
| Monday August 14 4:15pm-7pm | Queensland Police Service Band of Blue |
| Tuesday August 15 11:45am-2:30pm | Babash Steel Drum Band |
| Wednesday August 16 3pm-3:45pm | X Factor's Isaiah Firebrace |
| Thursday August 17 4:15pm-7pm | Royal Australian Army Band The Rising Suns |
| Friday August 18 3pm-3.45pm | Pop Country Artist Chloe Styler |
| Saturday August 19 3pm-3.45pm | The Voice's Faith Sosene |
| Sunday August 20 11:45am-2:30pm | The Voice's Chang Po Ching |



NEW - LOREN RYAN (TAMWORTH TOYOTA STAR MAKER 2023)

WHEN: 4.15pm - 7pm, August 16

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (I-13)

Country music fans will be treated to a special performance by Tamworth local and Gamilaraay woman Loren Ryan who was crowned the 43rd Toyota Star Maker winner at the Tamworth Country Music Festival earlier this year. Loren, the first Indigenous woman to take out the competition, wowed the judges and the crowd alike, performing original songs 'Bounce Back' and 'Suddenly' in the grand finale. An exciting new artist, Loren has recently returned from her first international adventure, performing at 50th CMA Fest in Nashville, and has just released 'Suddenly' as her first single.

NEW - BEN SHEEHY (2023 AUSTRALIAN IDOL SEMI-FINALIST)

WHEN: 4.15pm - 7pm, August 13

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (I-13)

The wildcard of Australian Idol 2023, Ben Sheehy made it to the semi-finals with his unique and powerful voice inspired by the classic rock of the 60s/70s. Ben is a dynamic and unpredictable performer and composer who also draws from folk music to create a contemporary sound that is distinctive, raw and enigmatic. Bringing together influences from Georgy Ligeti to Jeff Buckley, Ben's eclectic vocal ability will excite Ekka visitors.

BAND OF BLUE - QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

WHEN: 4.15pm - 7pm on August 14 & 15 and 11.45-2.30pm on August 16

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (I-13)

The Band of Blue has been performing since 2001, covering a plethora of musical styles including rock, blues, funk, soul, jazz and country and western. The band has previously supported well-known singers Daryl Braithwaite, Ross Wilson, John Williamson and Steady Eddie and has also performed with great artists such as Angry Anderson, James Blundell, Beccy Cole and Kevin Borridge. The officers that make up the Band of Blue are drawn from all areas of policing such as specialist units, state crime operations, scenes of crime and general duties.

THE RISING SUNS - ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND

WHEN: 4.15pm - 7pm on August 17, 18, 19 & 20

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (I-13)

Since its formation in 1949, the Australian Army Band Brisbane has enjoyed high acclaim wherever they perform and is always a favourite at the Ekka. The Army Band is a hard swinging, exciting ensemble consisting of the traditional line up from the glorious swing era of saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and rhythm, complemented with male and female vocals. Their repertoire ranges from traditional Big Band sounds through to funky arrangements of rock hits and Australian music. The Army Band supports the Australian Army and Australian Defence Force units in South-East Queensland. Band members have been deployed on domestic and international operations, as well as regularly performing in commemorative activities such as Anzac Day.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND

WHEN: 4.15pm - 7pm on August 12 and 11.45am - 2.30pm on August 19

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (I-13)

2023 marks 110 years since the humble beginnings of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Band. Custodians of naval tradition and ceremony, RAN musicians promote awareness in the Australian and international communities of Navy's critical contribution to the nation. The RAN Band reflects the quality of Navy's people and the values they aspire to including service, courage, respect, integrity, and excellence. The RAN Band enjoys one of the ADF's most significant public engagement profiles and plays an invaluable role in keeping Navy's image in the public consciousness ashore and at sea.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIRFORCE ROCK BAND

WHEN: 11.45am – 2.30pm, August 12 & 13,

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (1-13)

Performing at Ekka for the first time, the Royal Australian Airforce Rock Band are ready to rock the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage. Flying up from Melbourne, the rock band consists of ten talented individuals from the Airforce who love to perform a variety of music styles that are sure to get audiences on their feet! Don't miss these top guns in action!

EMMA IRENE

WHEN: 3pm – 3.45pm, August 15 & 17,
9.30 – 10.15am August 19

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (1-13)

Emma Irene is a vocalist, actor, show announcer, and a past lead performer in the EkkaNITES evening entertainment program. She is a graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, and a lead performer at Village Roadshow's Australian Outback Spectacular, where she sings, acts, and rides horses! With Australia's leading equine entertainment company, The Rooftop Express Show, Emma has performed at Royal Shows and events across the country, including the Ekka, Equitana Melbourne, and the sold-out Night of the Horse touring arena productions. Emma's rich vocal tone and warm presence is sure to enthrall audiences.

CHLOE STYLER

WHEN: 3pm – 3.45pm, August 18

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (1-13)

Gold Coast singer-songwriter, Chloe Styler, delivers a taste of feel-good energy with her soul-soothing brand of Pop Country that warms the heart and delights the senses. She has delivered multiple alluring singles that have earned her nominations at the Gold Coast Music Awards, Queensland Music Awards, and Top 40 finalist status in the Vanda & Young Global Songwriting Competition. A young, focused, and powerful Australian artist set to make waves in the international market, Chloe recently kicked things off with her debut CMA Fest performance in Nashville, Tennessee in June this year.

NEW – DJS ROCK THE EKKA

DJ ALZ

WHEN: 8pm – 9.30pm, August 12 & 13

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (1-13)

DJ ALZ brings a unique and memorable experience to every show. With his extensive knowledge of different music genres and his exceptional ability to read the crowd, DJ ALZ knows just how to get everyone on their feet and dancing the night away.

The Colonel

WHEN: 8pm – 9.30pm, August 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, & 19

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage (1-13)

Since first appearing in Australia in 2006, Waylon P. Flawstane (aka 'The Colonel') has hosted and been house DJ at The Tackleshack, the secret VIP venue at the Splendour In The Grass festival. This mythical juke joint is a place of legendary wild and loose times with a soundtrack to fit. The Colonel has gone on to bring the good times of the deep south to countless festival and club stages across Australia.

BROOKE SCHUBERT

WHEN: 8pm – 10pm, August 19

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

Powerhouse singer-songwriter Brooke Schubert has shared stages with some of the world's biggest artists, including Keith Urban on his 'Light The Fuse' Australian tour. Her hot new single Burn Like Summer is currently taking Australian audiences by storm and will feature on her soon to be released album. The album, a direct reflection of her inspirations as she moves seamlessly between Rock and Country, features a collection of songs written and co-written by herself, Kaylee Bell, Graeme Connors, NolanSongs, Jerry Flowers, Linc Phelps and Natalie Pearson. Brooke's music always comes from the heart and Ekka-goers will love her high-energy show!

COUNTRY MUSIC SHOWDOWN PRESENTED BY ARIAT AUSTRALIA

WHEN: 9am – 6pm, August 19

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

The Country Music Showdown is the ultimate search for Queensland's next country music star.

Now in its ninth year, the competition offers rising country music stars the chance to battle it out for career-boosting prizes worth more than \$10,000. Musicians aged 12 years and over will compete in the ultimate music experience, performing two songs to Ekka crowds on stage at the XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill. A win in this competition means a boost to an artist's music career and competitors have the chance to win a variety of prizes, including recording sessions at Airlock Studios and Taramalin Sound, a scholarship to The Academy – which is Australia's premier music program for emerging artists, a photoshoot package and cash prizes provided by Ariat Australia.

WRITE LIKE A GIRL

WHEN: 10 – 11am, 1-2pm, August 19

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

Four female song writers – Hayley Marsten, Melody Moke, Billie Rose Copeland and Beth Lucas – will take to the stage in the new Write Like a Girl, bringing women's stories to the forefront and giving fans an opportunity to see their best-loved artists and new favourites in a special, intimate setting. Write Like a Girl pares back all the noise and fanfare and lets you into these songwriter's studios, bedrooms and songbooks to hear how their art began.



XXXX STOCKMEN'S BAR & GRILL

– Night Entertainment from 8pm

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| Saturday August 12 | Route 33 |
| Sunday August 13 | Stand-up Comedy Gala by Sit Down Comedy Club presented by Black & White Cabs |
| Monday August 14 | Single Mingles Night - Gympie Music Muster's Brittany Elise |
| Tuesday August 15 | Karaoke with Dave Eastgate's band presented by Black & White Cabs |
| Wednesday August 16 | Open Season |
| Thursday August 17 | Drag Queen Bingo |
| Friday August 18 | Mason Rack Band |
| Saturday August 19 | Brooke Schubert |

MASON RACK BAND

WHEN: 8pm – 11pm, August 18

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

Festival favourites and one of Australia's hardest working bands, the Mason Rack Band, are blues rock legends from the Gold Coast. Having played more than 3,000 live shows all over Australia and the world including Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Vanuatu and Japan, the Mason Rack Band are entertainment monsters. Their drum duels, onstage antics and signature movements set their award-winning stage show apart from everything and everyone else. Make sure you don't miss this blues rock powerhouse at Ekka!

BRITTANY ELISE (GYMPIE MUSTER TALENT SEARCH WINNER)

WHEN: 8pm – 11pm on August 14 and 3pm – 6pm on August 15

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

Australian country-pop artist, Brittany Elise, is making her mark in the music scene with her electric performances and powerhouse vocals. In 2022, she was crowned the Gympie Muster Talent Search Winner, a Toyota Star Maker Finalist, and released four Top 5 debuting singles Like Me That Way, Feel the Fire, Find Your Music and Sunshine Hurricane, with Like Me That Way hitting #1 on the Australian Radio Charts. This year she has enjoyed writing, recording, and performing in Nashville Tennessee, touring four Australian states, and recently opened for Amber Lawrence.

SARI ABBOTT (2022 COUNTRY MUSIC SHOWDOWN OPEN WINNER)

WHEN: 3pm – 6pm, August 17 & 20

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

Sari Abbott is an emerging singer-songwriter who took the country music industry by storm over the past 12 months, when she won the 2022 Ekka Country Music Showdown and was a finalist in the 2022 NAB Gympie Muster Talent Search and 2023 Toyota Star Maker Search at the Tamworth Country Music Festival playing to crowds of more than 9,000 people. A Junior and Senior Graduate of the Academy of Country Music, Sari has recently collaborated with artists such as James Johnston, Max Jackson and Taylor Moss, and also released songs on all platforms. Sari loves a good story telling song and can't wait to perform again at Ekka.

MUSIC ON THE MOVE

WHEN: Daily

WHERE: Gregory Terrace (L-12)

Marching to the beat once again in 2023 is Music on the Move. Moving in tune along Gregory Terrace daily will be a range of marching bands from 14 local school and community groups to the popular Army PEP Band. The street will come alive as the music moves through the show, with fans following the performance.