

# NIGHTTIME ENTERTAINMENT

## EKKANITES PRESENTED BY BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL PROGRAM - 6.30PM TO 8PM

Compered by Big Brother's Farmer Dave and Lyndsey Douglas

6:30pm	EkkaNITES opening - 10 Galloping Brumbies lead by Dave Manchon on horseback cracking a fire whip
6:35pm	Acknowledgment of Country and Australian National Anthem - Waveney Yasso
6:45pm	Queensland Harness Racing presented by Racing Queensland MCs welcome guests - Lyndsey Douglas and Farmer Dave Graham
7:00pm	The Bison Stampede - Battle in the Saddle presented by Dave Manchon and the Rooftop Express
7:15pm	Chariot Motorbike Racing with the Flair Action Sports Race Team
7:20pm	V8 Ute Challenge presented by the Trackskill Movie Stunt Drivers
7:30pm	Wheels of Steel performed by the International Circus Champions
7:40pm	Freestyle Motocross with the Airtime Avengers
7:50pm	Fireworks Spectacular - IMAGINE
8:00pm	Meet the Stars Under the Stars



The Main Arena comes alive each night of Show with the spectacular never before seen night show EkkaNITES presented by Brisbane City Council.

This year's theme is 'IMAGINE'. Imagination is the soil that brings a dream to life. If you can imagine it, you can achieve it and if you can dream it, you can become it.

Feel inspired watching the Ekka night show, which will feature an action-packed program including:

- A stunning fireworks display lighting up the night sky
- A new equine experience featuring cowboys, cowgirls, two stepping, galloping horses, bison, long horn bulls and all things Yellow Stone
- For the first time in Australian history, not one, not two but three Wheels of Steel, as circus performers balance atop the three storey tall rotating steel pendulums
- A nailbiting freestyle motocross display with motorcycles launching an incredible 15 metres into the air
- The rumble of V8 engines as utes tear around the Main Arena
- And much more!



### MC - LYNDSEY DOUGLAS

Having been a show announcer for more than a decade, Lyndsey is a well-known voice at ag shows across Australia, plus industry events for horses, cattle, sheep and agritech. This is her third year as MC of the night show, after first appearing at the Ekka in 2019. Lyndsey grew up on a farm in central west Queensland.

### MC - FARMER DAVE (DAVE GRAHAM)

Dave Graham is a farmer and professional animal behaviourist from southwest Queensland, but is best known for his work as a presenter and spokesperson. Dave appeared on 2006 and 2022 Big Brother, Australia's Got Talent and he MCs across Australia. His genuine Aussie banter and depth of knowledge brings an authentic feel that puts audiences at ease and engages them with a larkin sense of humour.



### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY AND AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM (FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH)

Brisbane based singer / songwriter and proud South Sea and Birri Gubba descendant Waveney Yasso will perform the Acknowledgment of Country and the Australian National Anthem each night of Show, she will be accompanied by six children including Francis Naumovic and Djairi Maza who will honour the first languages of Australia. Four children from HLS Trick Riding will also trot around the arena track on their ponies, in this heartwarming moment.

### About Waveney Yasso



Waveney is a Brisbane based singer / songwriter and a proud South Sea and Birri Gubba descendant. Music is her full-time job, touring the UK, America and Australia with international sensation Pub Choir. Waveney is dedicated to preserving language, songlines and history through art. When away from music, she is actively working within communities to maintain culture, language and connection to country.

# THE BISON

# STAMPEDE

## THE BISON STAMPEDE BATTLE IN THE SADDLE PRESENTED BY DAVE MANCHON

Everyone's favourite equine artist Dave Manchon is back with a brand new stampede show - Battle in the Saddle. Think cowboys, cowgirls, two stepping, galloping horses, bison, long horn bulls and all things Yellow Stone. The show features an Aussie stockman versus American cowboy challenge to determine who really does run the West. Families will love the spectacle as the cowboys and cowgirls introduce them to around 20 large bison, that are only usually seen on TV and movie screens. Never to be outmatched, the audience will also witness the skill of the Australian Stock Horses as they gallop against the power of the American Quarter Horse. Sit tight for an all-action show!



## QUEENSLAND HARNESS RACING PRESENTED BY RACING QUEENSLAND

Nightly harness racing at the Ekka has been a show staple. The legendary trots featured at the Show until 2002 - they then made a comeback in 2014 and have been tearing around the Main Arena ever since. The Garrards Finale will be held on the last night of show (Sunday 20 August).

## CHARIOT MOTORBIKE RACING

You've seen the harness racing, now watch on as the Flair Action Sports Chariot Bikes race around the Main Arena with a different kind of horse power. One person will steer and control two motorcycles from far behind the handlebars, as they compete to be crowned the Chariot King. These custom-made vehicles are powered by two Husqvarna 401 motorcycles each and they look and sound incredible! The first ever competition of motorcycle chariot racing was held in the USA as early as 1922, gaining popularity throughout the 1920s and 1930s and further inspired by the 1925 film Ben-Hur. Cheer on your favourite chariot bike as the fierce racers go head to head.

### Jack Field

This former world number one freestyle trials champion is a serious daredevil. He performed the highest backflip on a motorcycle ever recorded, backflipping 297m in the air without safety barriers on top of the Eureka Tower in Melbourne. Jack doubled for Vin Diesel in XXX movie, fought Hugh Jackman on a motorbike in Wolverine and appeared in Mad Max in Namibia.

### Brad Jenner

Brad is an international freestyle trials rider and movie stunt performer. He has travelled throughout Australia showcasing heart pumping live stunt shows and performing for more than a million spectators annually at some of the world's biggest events. Brad has also been a stunt performer alongside Hollywood actor Chris Hemsworth! Whether it's a two wheeled, four wheeled or even six wheeled bike or contraption, Brad will keep you on the edge of your seat.

## V8 UTE CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY THE TRACKSKILL MOVIE STUNT DRIVERS

It's the age old battle between two Australian icons - Ford and Holden. With plenty of colour, big V8 noise and sideways action, this high adrenaline show is sure to be a huge hit with families. From the days of Peter Brock and Dick Johnson to the present day of the Camaro and Mustangs, Aussies have loved that screaming V8 sound as the drivers race to dominate the podiums. Our two Trackskill drivers won't hold back, as they fight to uphold the honour of their beloved marque.

### 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 stunt drives regularly in movies and television commercials, with his resume including Ricky Stanicky starring Zac Efron, Wolf Creek TV (series 1 and 2) and Storm Boy.

### Tim Ramage

Tim is a professional performance driver and trainer who has worked on movies including Mortal Kombat. He started his career in Gravel Rally (Australian Rally Championship) at a state and national level in the early 1990s, moving onto drifting and competing in the Tarmac Rally. Tim has won many races in the Tarmac Rally and has taken out multiple top five stage times in Gravel Rally.



## WHEELS OF STEEL

Presenting for the first time in Australian history, not one, not two but three Wheels of Steel performing simultaneously inside the Main Arena. No safety nets, no harnesses - all adrenaline! Weighing 800kg and standing three storeys tall, performers rely solely upon their skills to maintain balance atop the rotating steel pendulums. The Wheel of Steel is considered one of the most dangerous stunts to perform. Ekka guests will be on the edge of their seats as international circus performers run, jump, skip and perform acrobatics on a rotating wheel that is only 60cm wide.

### Warren Brophy



Warren is a seventh generation circus artist. He started performing at a young age with his family's circus, Perry Bros, travelling around Australia. Warren was able to learn many different skills including lasso spinning, tightrope, knife throwing and of course the Wheel of Steel which he fell in love with. Throughout his 20s, Warren has toured this act at major events around Australia and headlined international shows.

### Jansen Grant

Jansen is seventh generation in the Ashton circus family. He started performing at just four years old and at 13 became the youngest person in the world to perform the Wheel of Steel. Other acts Jansen has performed include the flying trapeze (as both a flyer and a catcher), clowning, acrobatics and working with various animals.



### Tim Matousek



Tim has been performing in the circus for the past 15 years. His skills include the Wheel of Steel, Russian swing, aerial straps, Chinese pole and many more. Tim has performed in various touring shows around Australia and Europe. He loves the roar of the crowd and loves to entertain.

## FREESTYLE MOTOCROSS WITH THE AIRTIME AVENGERS

The Airtime Avengers sent out a galaxy wide call looking for Super MotoX riders to join their ranks, but do the new recruits have what it takes to join this global elite group of superheroes? They must impress the Ekka crowd by jumping higher, further and performing more insane tricks than anyone on earth to be successful! Can this wild pack of two-wheeled titans work as a team to prove they're truly worthy to become an Airtime Avenger? The riders will launch motorcycles an incredible 15 metres into the air while performing some of the most death defying stunts in the industry! This show is presented by Airtime FMX and features Australia's premier FMX riders Brad Burch, Kain Saul and Ben Richards. Powered by YAMAHA.



### Tommy G - Announcer/MC



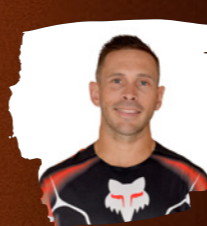
Boasting a career spanning more than 20 years as a professional MC, singer, actor and Hollywood stunt driver, Tommy G is a man of many talents - from two wheeling a stunt car one minute to fight scenes as Batman the next! He is also undoubtedly one of the best FMX announcers in the world.

### Brad 'Wings' Burch - FMX Rider

Growing up on a dairy farm in country Victoria and forming a passion for jumping dirt bikes from a young age, Brad was born to fly. His Freestyle Motocross career exploded in 2009 when he received a full-time ride with the original Showtime FMX Team, quickly followed by the premiere of the Nitro Circus Live Tours in 2010. Performing more than 90 days per year, he's spent the last 14 years touring Australia, Europe, Asia and America, alongside the very best in Action Sports, and is one of the most experienced FMX Show riders in the world.



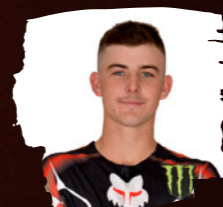
### Kain 'Raptor' Saul - FMX Rider



One of the first people in the world to backflip a dirt bike, Kain has done it all. The 2008 Australasian Freestyle Champion has spent his career performing full-time for the Showtime/Airtime FMX Team, touring the world with Nitro Circus Live, and was part of the famous Crusty Demons. Kain is also a Guinness World Record Holder as the first person to backflip a Harley Davidson.

### Ben 'Bulls Eye' Richards - FMX Rider

The hottest new talent to come out of Australia in the world of Freestyle Motocross, and the newest member of the Airtime FMX Team, Benny is excited to be making his debut at the 2023 Ekka. The 22 year old Wagga Wagga native already has a huge list of achievements including touring worldwide with Nitro Circus Live, representing Australia at the Olympics of Action Sports, the X Games, and placing 3rd in FMX at the recent 2022 Nitro World Games. Known for his "spot on" style and execution, he enjoys being the centre of attention. Bulls Eye.





### **FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR – ‘IMAGINE’**

From the first beat of music, the audience will be blown away by the EkkaNITES fireworks spectacular. Watch on in awe as the night sky is painted with ever changing sequences of flames and pyrotechnic effects. This year's show - 'IMAGINE' - features plenty of 'wow' moments of unique firing designs, new special effects, lights and performers all perfectly synchronised to the music soundtrack that will have you up on your feet dancing. This must-see arena pyro-musical intensifies to a fantastic finale that will create vivid lifelong Ekka memories for the entire audience.

The spectacular display will feature:

- 65 x pyrotechnics firing positions
- 36 x firejets
- 12 x colour LED pyrostrobes
- Six human pyro performers
- Three Wheels of Steel - strapped with pyro
- Electric pyro scooters that will illuminate with glittering sparks as they zoom around the arena in a

- Rollover quads performed by Jack Field and Brad Jenner with fireworks attached
- Motorbikes with rider who hae pyro strapped to their backs
- Three tonnes of fireworks

#### *Howard & Sons Pyrotechnics Displays*

Howard & Sons Pyrotechnics, celebrating 101 years of pyrotechnic innovation, are world leaders in pyrotechnics & SFX. They have an international reputation for taking projects into the next league, pushing pyrotechnic boundaries and exceeding audience's expectations. Christian and Andrew Howard represent the fourth generation of the Howard family who have been honoured to work with the Ekka to provide the pyrotechnics and special effects for EkkaNITES

### **MEET THE STARS UNDER THE STARS**

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

### **THE TEAM BEHIND EKKANITES**

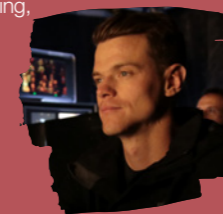
*Jack Ellison*



For the ninth year, the night 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 winner of the prestigious Australian Events Awards.

*Ashley Neuendorf*

Ashley Neuendorf, Director of High Impact Lighting, has been involved with lighting productions for more than 16 years. He has toured with bands including Boy & Bear, Illy and Amity Affliction. Ash has also done the lighting for sporting events such as the State of Origin Series and Brisbane Broncos Indigenous round. This year for the night show, Ash is showcasing an automated follow spot system, along with industry leading beam lights.



*Lachlan Marsh*



Lachlan Marsh is a Brisbane based music producer and Broadcast Engineer for Nine Entertainment. His music has been supported by some of the world's biggest electronic acts including Above & Beyond and Don Diablo. This is Lachlan's second Ekka producing the soundtrack for the Fireworks Spectacular, bringing with him his signature high energy dance music and unique composition skills.



# SINGLES MINGLE *monday*

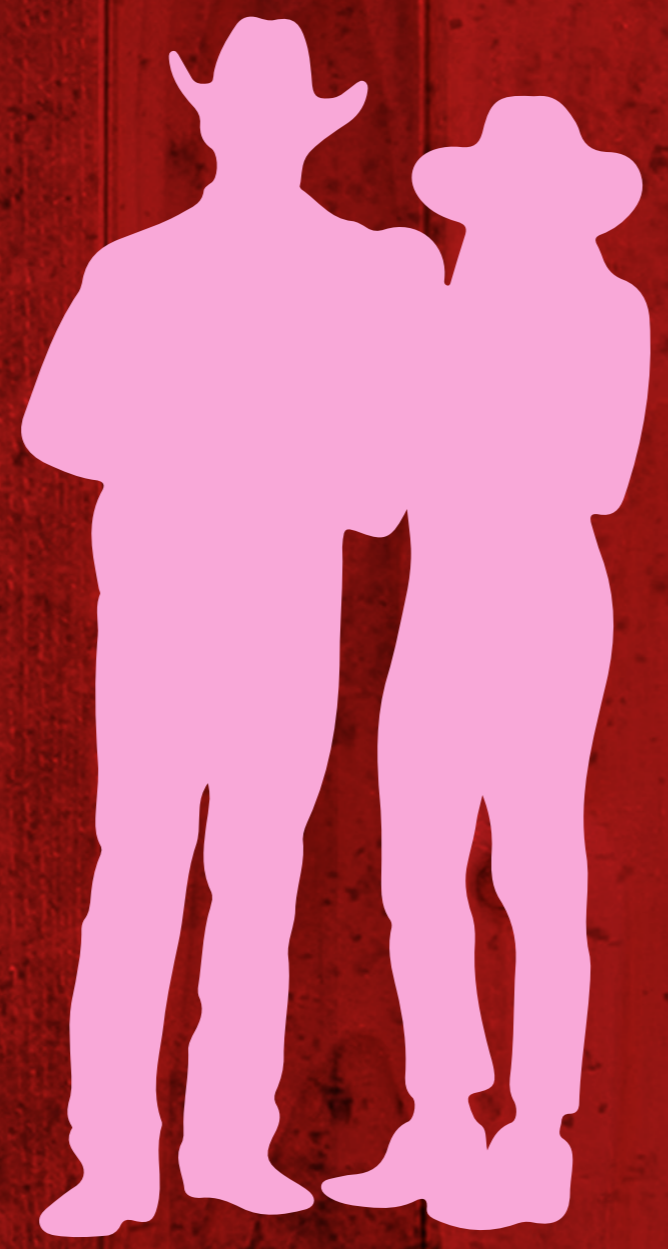
**ONE NIGHT ONLY!**

## SINGLES MINGLE MONDAY

*WHEN: 8pm August 14*

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

Love is in the air this Ekka. For those looking to find their sweetheart, the new Singles Mingle event is for you. From cowboys galloping in from the outback to city slickers ready to mingle, all are welcome to see if sparks fly this Ekka. Singles Mingle will be hosted by ex The Bachelorette and Australia's Got Talent contestant Apollo, who will work his magic. There will be speed dating facilitated by Queensland match makers Social Mingle, live country music from Brittany Elise, games, prizes and a whole lotta fun on offer. Don't miss your chance to meet that special someone.



**ONE NIGHT ONLY!**

## NEW - KARAOKE WITH LIVE BAND & HOST DAVID EASTGATE

*WHEN: 8:30pm August 15*

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

Live out your rock star fantasies with a shreddin' four-piece band live on stage! From Tina Turner to Twisted Sister, Metallica to Madonna, Shania Twain to Slayer – this event has you covered with a diverse list of more than 250 bangers. There's classic rock, country and soul, plus old-school rap and metal, right through to today's smash hits. Cheer on your mate as they Live on a Prayer, be amazed by Dad's rendition of Rolling In to the Deep, or dance while Nana belts out Sweet Child O' Mine! Comedian Dave Eastgate presents a karaoke experience like no other!

## DRAG QUEEN BINGO - HOSTED BY VOLLIE LAVONT

*WHEN: 8:30pm August 17*

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

Frock up for the fabulous Drag Queen Bingo featuring your favourite ABBA songs at XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill. For one night only, showgirl Vollie LaVont will treat Ekka guests to a range of performances, glamorous fashions, and a whole lot of lip-syncing fun featuring your favourite ABBA songs. Full of feather boas, high hair, glitter and heels, this one-of-a-kind show will see the audience in hysterics. Party on with Vollie and her Queens at a bingo game to remember.



## EKKA'S STAND-UP COMEDY GALA PRESENTED BY BLACK & WHITE CABS

*WHEN: 8:30pm August 13*

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

B105's Stav Davidson hosts the Ekka's Stand-up Comedy Gala presented by Black & White Cabs. From snappy one-liners to hilarious stories and funny home truths, some of Brisbane's best comedians will take to the mic including Mark McConville, Ting Lim, Steven J Whiteley, Ellen Briggs and Fred Lang. The night is brought to you by The Sit Down Comedy Club - the largest comedy provider of its kind in Australia.

