

WHAT'S NEW



ANIMAL ADVENTURES

- RACQ Animal Nursery: new adorable additions to the nursery this year are guinea pigs and rabbits

COMPETITIONS

- Apiculture: new Junior Beekeeper Liquid Honey class
- Cake Decorating: new class celebrating the 60th anniversary of the iconic Bertie Beetle chocolate
- Cookery: New Future Directions feature class theme - Bertie Beetle. New ABC Radio Brisbane Queensland On a Plate class featuring the pineapple upside down cake. Plus new classes for brownies and chocolate chip biscuits
- Natural Fibres Make & Model and Wearable Art Competition: New 1970's fashion era and steam punk themes, plus a new Adults in Wool class
- Painting and Drawing: Two new youth classes displaying artworks from those aged 12 and under, plus 13-18 year olds
- Stud Beef: the feature breed this year is Limousin. First time in the competition's history an international judge has featured - PJ Budler from America
- Prime Beef: new Single Heifer classes
- Canine Competition presented by Sushi Hub: new RNA Scent Work Trials class

- Dairy Cattle: an extra \$10,000 in prize money on offer, taking the total to \$32,000. Also a new location this year, with cattle displayed on Level 1 of the Large Animal Pavilion and judging taking place on the Main Arena
- Education on Show: new theme - Learning: A Lifelong Experience
- Sheep: inclusion of Corriedale and Dorset Down breeds
- Floristry: new class called Arrangement for a Bar
- Horse: two new children's competition classes - Child's Show Pony Galloway & Hack and Child's Show Hunter Galloway & Hack. Plus a new class called Senior and Junior
- Showjumping: new Queensland Off-The-Track Program Showcase, offering \$50,000 in prize money
- Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs: two new school classes in the egg section - Primary (Prep to Grade 6) and Senior (Grades 7-12)
- Quilts Across Queensland presented by Pillow Talk: two new classes - Abstract Art and Pictorial Art Quilt
- Woodchop and Sawing presented by AAM: increased prize pool worth more than \$145,000, up 45 per cent on 2022. Four new Australian Title events – 325mm Australian Women's Single Sawing Championship, 375mm Australian Jack & Jill Double Handed Sawing Championship, 275mm Australian Women's Underhand Championship and 450mm Australian Double Handed Sawing Championship

DAYTIME ENTERTAINMENT

New daytime entertainment at the Ekka this year includes:

- CoComelon: sing, play and dance with JJ
- Duelling Magicians: two of Australia's best magicians, Christopher Wayne and Josh Norbido, go head-to-head in the ultimate magic showdown
- RuffTRACK's K9 Super Wall: Join Big Brother's Dave Graham and The RuffTRACK kids for the ultimate dog high jump competition where canines will jump up an ever-increasing vertical wall, reaching heights of almost 10ft/3m
- Ekka's Farmyard Friends Street Parade: The Ekka is putting on a street parade that will pass through Gregory Terrace three times a day, featuring the loveable Farmyard Friends, energetic dancers and catchy tunes from Ekka's brass band
- Australian Strongman Alliance: It's the first time the Ekka has hosted the only Queensland qualifier for one of the biggest events internationally, the 2023 Magnus Ver Magnusson Strongman Classic. Some of Australia's top strong men and women will take on five gruelling events
- Ekka's Beaut Ute Parade: More than 20 utes and their proud owners will be competing for a share in \$1,000 in prize money
- For the first time in Ekka history, the best whipcrackers from across the nation will compete in the Australian Whipcracking Championships presented by R.M. Williams and Packer Leather hosted by the Australian Whipcrackers & Plaiters Association.

EDUCATION

- Ekka Education Stage presented by Podsquad an initiative of Health & Wellbeing Qld: The new stage will feature many educational presentations for children from learning about healthy and nutritious food to pollination and gardening
- Sensory Garden supported by Capilano Honey: The impressive 14-metre-long self-guided sensory garden will feature sensory activities for kids, as well as showcase the best types of flowers to plant in your garden to attract bees

FASHION

- 'Nature's Gifts' Natural Fibres Fashion Parades presented by Channel 7: In its 30th year, Queensland's longest running fashion parades will feature more regional designers than ever before and introduce swimwear and childrenswear for the first time

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

New food and beverage options at the Ekka this year include:

- The Smokehouse: Low n' slow cooked delicious smoked brisket using award-winning beef, southern inspired burgers, golden fried chicken, creamy slaws and sides
- CoCo Cheese Hotdog: Crunchy corn dogs filled with a cheesy mozzarella filled hotdog, with a range of coatings like sweet potato, ramen or the original corn dog
- Dougie's Donuts: Fresh donuts with flavours like the popular Lemon





Meringue with a lemon curd filling, Fairy Bread and Pink Sprinkle

- Chicken Schnitzel On A Stick: A loaded chicken schnitzel on a stick. Keep it classic or try the loaded options, with a delicious Parmigiana, Hawaiian or Mexican twist
- Joey's Bacon House: Bacon lollipops, bacon on a stick, pork belly bites and more delicious pork dishes that will crackle in your mouth
- Claw: A California inspired crab shack in the heart of Ekka. Don your bib and dig into a menu inspired by the humble crustation - all made fresh to order
- Homemade dumplings: Authentic Chinese dumplings. The pork and chives, known as the 'crowd favourite' are not to be missed but other flavours include the prawn, pork and chives, chicken and cabbage, and beef, onion and carrot dumplings
- Fish in the Family: Taste North Queensland Tiger Prawns and South Australian Coffin Bay Oysters, served with a wedge of lemon and seafood sauce
- Wonderbao: Whether you're feeling like a gua bao or a filled bao, you will be spoiled for choice with fillings like roast pork belly, battered chicken and crispy tofu
- La Mano Tacos: Tasty pork tacos with a verde sauce and lime pickled onions, Ignacio nachos with all the trimmings, plus a beef and oaxaca cheese taco with a side of their famous consommé to dip into
- Domino's Mobile Pizza Kitchen: Domino's is bringing their delicious pizza to the Ekka. Their mobile pizza kitchen will pull up on Gregory Terrace, serving the piping hot pizza everyone knows and loves!

- The Hot Dog Deli: A range of American classics, along with some deliciously loaded hot dogs. Think The Queens with an American Chilli Sauce made up of beans and mince, the New York Classic with mash and gravy, and the Chicago with caramelised onions and a pickle relish

NIGHTTIME ENTERTAINMENT

- Bison Stampede - Battle in the Saddle: A new equine experience featuring cowboys, cowgirls, two stepping, galloping horses, around 20 bison, long horn bulls and all things Yellow Stone
- Wheels of Steel: For the first time in Australian history, three Wheels of Steel will perform simultaneously inside the Main Arena. Weighing 800kg and standing three storeys tall, performers rely solely upon their skills to maintain balance atop the rotating steel pendulums
- Fireworks Spectacular: New theme 'Imagine', plus plenty of 'wow' moments featuring unique firing designs and new special effects
- Singles Mingle Monday: Love is in the air this Ekka, with a special event on August 14 hosted by ex Bachelorette contestant Apollo featuring speed dating, live country music and a whole lot of fun
- Karaoke with Live Band and host David Eastgate: Ekka goers will live out their rock star fantasies with a shreddin' four-piece band live on stage in this karaoke experience

MUSIC

- Isaiah Firebrace: The highest streamed First Nations pop artist in the world will take to the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage on August 16 at 3pm
- Loren Ryan: Country music fans will be treated to a special performance by Tamworth local and Gamilaraay woman Loren Ryan on August 16 (Multicultural Plaza Music Stage at 4.15pm), who was crowned the 43rd Toyota Star Maker winner at the Tamworth Country Music Festival earlier this year
- Ben Sheehy: The wildcard of Australian Idol 2023, Ben made it to the semi-finals with his unique and powerful voice inspired by the classic rock of the 60s/70s. He will take to the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage on August 13 at 4.15pm
- DJ ALZ: This DJ knows how to get everyone on their feet and dancing the night away. DJ ALZ will perform the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage after EkkaNITES presented by Brisbane City Council at 8pm on August 12 and 13 to keep the good vibes going
- The Colonel: 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. He'll bring his high energy vibes to the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage at 8pm on August 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19

RIDES COMING SOON

SHOWBAGS

There are 77 new showbags this year, including:

- Bertie Beetle 60th Birthday Showbag: Celebrating the anniversary of the iconic chocolate
- Bingo
- Barbie Teens
- Play Doh
- Nickelodeon Slime
- May Gibbs
- Bart Simpson
- Pink Floyd
- Milo

