

OUR COMPETITIONS

A

APICULTURE

Ag Education Hall

'Bee' amazed by the entries in the Apiculture Competition, which include extracted honey, pollen, comb honey, beeswax, mead (an alcoholic beverage made by fermenting honey with water) and native. New this year is a Junior Beekeeper Liquid Honey class, where children under 18 years of age and school groups can enter the honey from their very own beehives. The competition is a great way to teach children about bees and keep the industry buzzing by getting the next generation involved. Judging of the Apiculture Competition takes place in the lead-up to Show on Saturday 5 August in the Royal International Convention Centre at 10am, with the entries displayed in the Ag Education Hall over the nine days of Ekka.

Jamie Grant (RNA Councillor in Charge)

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ARTS AND COOKERY

Competition Displays: Channel 7 Pavilion (level one)

Live Cookery Judging: Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion

- Cake Decorating
- Cookery
- Creative Art and Craft
- Natural Fibres Make & Model and Wearable Art
- Painting and Drawing
- Photography
- Sculpture

The popular Arts and Cookery competitions have this year attracted more than 4,300 entries across seven sections (listed above). New in 2023 for Cake Decorating is a 60th anniversary celebration cake for the iconic Bertie Beetle chocolate. The Cookery Competition is also celebrating, with their Future Directions feature class themed Bertie Beetle – think cupcakes, cookies and any baked item the entrant wants to get creative with! This class will be judged live on the Royal Queensland Cooking Stage in the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion on Saturday 12 August at 10am. Another new Cookery class being judged live is ABC Radio Brisbane Queensland On a Plate, where bakers have entered a pineapple upside down cake. Judging will take place on Thursday 17 August at the ABC Radio Brisbane activation in the Flower and Garden Precinct. Brownies and chocolate chip biscuits are also new to the Cookery Competition schedule this year. In Painting and Drawing, there are two new youth classes this year displaying artworks from those aged 12 and under, plus





13-18 year olds. Entries in Cake Decorating, Cookery, Creative Art and Craft, Painting and Drawing, Photography, and Sculpture will be on display in the Channel 7 Pavilion from 9am to 6pm over the nine days of Show. In the Natural Fibres Make & Model and Wearable Art Competition, aspiring designers of all ages will showcase their latest creations. There are new 1970's fashion era and steam punk themes, plus a new Adults in Wool class showcasing items made from 100% wool fabrics. The entries will be paraded on the Main Stage on Saturday 12 August at 3.30pm.

Wally Boydell (RNA Councillor in Charge)

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Anna Marsden (RNA Councillor in Charge)

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AUSTRALIAN YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE DELIVERED BY DOMINO'S

Main Arena

An initiative of the RNA Future Directions Committee, the Australian Young Farmer Challenge is a relay-style event comprised of eight team challenges incorporating everyday farm life. Teams of four (aged between 18 and 35) will battle it out on the Main Arena on Sunday 13 August from 4.30pm, rolling giant hay bales, constructing cattle cages, rolling up swags, treating pretend snake bites and more.

B

BEEF CATTLE

Main Arena and Silverdale Saleyards

- Stud Beef
- Led Steer
- Prime Beef

Around 1,100 head of beef cattle will be paraded, judged and displayed at the Show across the stud beef and led steer sections. The Stud Beef Competition is the largest showing of stud beef in the southern hemisphere. The feature breed this year is Limousin, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the breed in Australia and New Zealand. The Limousin

breed is one of the fastest growing influences on the Australian cattle market today, with strong competition for Limousin infused cattle in the supply chain. The breed will be judged on the Main Arena on Friday 11 August between 8.30am and midday. For the first time in its history, the Stud Beef Competition will also feature an international judge. PJ Budler from the United States will judge both the Fleckvieh breed and the Santos Champion of Champions. He has judged 85 different cattle breeds in 43 countries. Meanwhile, the prime beef section is being held at Silverdale Saleyards on Thursday 10 August. New this year are Single Heifer classes that have been introduced to reflect industry changes. The Ekka's Premier Beef Presentation (led steer and prime beef awards) will be held on Saturday 12 August in the Channel 7 Pavilion at 8.150am. For more beef cattle judging highlights please go to page 18.

Gary Noller (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0408 700 949

BUSH POETRY PRESENTED BY CARAVANNING QUEENSLAND

Stockman's Rest and virtually

Passionate bush poets from the aspiring to the experienced will recite their favourite established poem or original ballad about Australia, Australians or the Australian way of life. There is also a class based on the theme of caravanning. School students also enter the competition, with bush poetry a great way for English students to develop their poetry and performing skills. The poets will perform for the judges at Stockman's Rest on Sunday 13 August from 9am. For those who can't make it in person, there are also virtual classes where poets submit a recording of themselves. Judging of the virtual competition takes place on Wednesday 19 July.

Anna Marsden (RNA Councillor in Charge)

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C

CANINE COMPETITION PRESENTED BY SUSHI HUB

Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion and Stockman's Rest

The Canine Competition presented by Sushi Hub is one of Ekka's largest

and most popular competitions, this year attracting more than 2,470 entries. Around 180 breeds will be showcased over the nine days of Show. New this year is the RNA Scent Work Trials, which will see canines take on the role of a working detection dog to sniff out different odours. This will be held at Stockman's Rest on Wednesday 16 August at 10am. Other exciting competitions held at Stockman's Rest include obedience (Saturday 12 August at 10am) and agility and jumping (Monday 14 August at 10am), with the dogs weaving through obstacles and jumping to great heights. You also won't want to miss the crowning of the Champion of Show on Saturday 19 August at Expo Place (King Charles Show at 1pm and Queen Elizabeth Show at 2pm) and Dances with Dogs and the Trick Dog Test on Sunday 20 August from 10am.

Lionel Blumel (RNA Councillor in Charge)
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CAT COMPETITION PRESENTED BY SUSHI HUB

Sushi Hub Cat Precinct

Preened to purr-fection, more than 25 breeds of cats will be showcased in the Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub, from long haired Persians to short haired Siamese and even cute kittens. The competition will take place in Building 8 at Alexandria Park, just a short distance from the popular dog competition and much-loved RACQ Animal Nursery. Judging takes place from Saturday 12 to Sunday 20 August. Highlights include the crowning of the Supreme All Breeds Cat of Show (Wednesday 16 August from 2.30pm) and the Kitten Show (Sunday 20 August from 9.30am). The informative, educational and interactive Cat Breed Showcase (August 17, 18 and 19 at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm) is also popular, giving cat lovers insight into the meow-nificent world of felines.

Lionel Blumel (RNA Councillor in Charge)
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D

DAIRY CATTLE

Large Animal Pavilion (Level 1) and Main Arena

Six breeds of dairy cattle will be judged and displayed at the Ekka - Ayrshire, Guernsey, Illawarra, Jersey, Holstein and Brown Swiss. An extra \$10,000 in prize money is on offer this year, making it one of the richest competitions of its kind in Australia. The additional prize money takes the total amount on offer to \$32,000. Dairy cattle will this year be displayed on Level 1 of Large Animal Pavilion, with judging taking place on the Main Arena. The cattle are judged on the quality of their milk and appearance. Highlights include the crowning of the Supreme Dairy Cow on Friday 18 August from 2.30pm, and the All Breeds Youth Show on Wednesday 16 August at 3pm encouraging the next generation of exhibitors. For more judging highlights head to page 20.

John Cotter (RNA Councillor in Charge)
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DAIRY GOATS

Large Animal Pavilion (Level 1)

One of the largest annual gatherings of dairy goats in Queensland occurs at the Ekka. Eight breeds are displayed - Anglo-Nubian, Australian Melaan, Australian Brown, British Alpine, Lamancha, Nigerian Dwarf, Saanen and Toggenburg. Each breed has its own special characteristics and personality traits. Judging takes place across two days on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 August. All goats are judged on their physical attributes and their ability to produce top quality dairy products. Highlights include



the crowning of the Supreme Champion Dairy Doe of Show (Saturday 19 August), and the cute Junior Handlers Competition (Friday 18 August at 11am) which educates and encourages young goat breeders, attendants and assistants.

John Cotter (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0418 466 891

E

EDUCATION ON SHOW

Channel 7 Pavilion

The Education on Show competition showcases work by Queensland students from Prep to Grade 6. The 2023 theme is 'Learning: A Lifelong Experience'. From the minute we are born, our life is a continuous learning experience. The competition classes cover a wide range of curriculum related skills and activities including poetry, brochures, wearable jewellery creations, comics/cartoons, murals and more. Judging takes place in the lead-up to Ekka on Wednesday 2 August, with the entries then displayed in the Channel 7 Pavilion for the nine days of show.

EKKA CREATIVE CLIPS

Throughout the grounds

Aspiring film students from Grades 5-12 have the chance to enhance and refine their production and editing skills in the Ekka Creative Clips Competition. During their Ekka school excursion, the students will create an advertisement style short film about the Show. Judging will take place after the Ekka, with the winners announced on Monday 11 September. Some of the winning entries will feature on the Ekka's social media platforms.

F

FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS

Stockman's Rest

The largest farriers and blacksmiths competition in the southern hemisphere is held at the Ekka. More than 370 entries have been received this year, with the competition to be held at Stockman's Rest from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 August. Professionals will go head-to-head, designing and shaping metal into shoes over hot flames. The competition features everything from novice and open blacksmithing to forging and shoeing for horses.

FLEECE BREEDS

Channel 7 Pavilion, Large Animal Pavilion (second floor) and Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion

- Alpaca Fleeces
- Prime Lambs supported by Carey Bros. Abattoir
- Sheep
- Wool

Animals and/or their fleece are judged in the fleece breeds competitions. Wool and alpaca fleece will be judged in the Ag Education Hall on Saturday 12 August at 1pm. Ekka guests can view the prize-winning natural fibres on display over the nine days of Show, comparing them to their winter woollies. Meanwhile the Sheep Competition will see the

animals judged and paraded in the Large Animal Pavilion from Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 August. New this year is the inclusion of Corriedale and Dorset Down breeds. Highlights include the school competition classes on Friday 18 August at 8am and Champion of Champions judging on Saturday 19 August at 11am. In the Prime Lambs Competition, judging will take place on Thursday 10 August at Carey Bros Abattoir, with the awards presentation and carcass auction to be held on Saturday 12 August in the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion from 11am. The award-winning carcasses will be on display in the pavilion on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 August.

William Roberts (RNA Councillor in Charge)

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FLOWER AND GARDEN

Flower & Garden Precinct

- Floristry
- Horticultural Display
- Little Sprouts supported by Brunnings
- School Garden Competition supported by Brunnings
- School Scarecrow Competition supported by Brunnings

The Flower & Garden Precinct will feature many eye-catching floral competition displays, including creations by Queensland students. The Floristry Competition will feature a new class this year called Arrangement for a Bar. An awards presentation will be held on Saturday 12 August at 11.30am. Other competition highlights include live judging of the Mystery Box Challenge classes on Sunday 13 and Wednesday 16 August at 10am. Florists will be given one hour to construct a display from a mystery box featuring flowers and other materials. The Horticultural Display exhibits will also brighten up the precinct, with stunning entries by community groups, clubs and associations. Meanwhile, an awards presentation for the school competitions will take place on Saturday 12 August at 11.30am. The fun Little Sprouts Competition will see Prep to Year 1 students grow an Ekka-pillar, while the School Garden Competition will see students from Prep to Year 6 design their own mini-farm, complete with pretend crops and animals. Students entering the School Scarecrow Competition will this year seek inspiration from the book Drover, researching the life of Edna Jessop - the first female boss drover. The champion scarecrow will then assume official scarecrow duties in the grounds of Government House for up to three months.

Robin McLay (RNA Councillor in Charge)

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H

HORSES

Main Arena

- Horse
- Showjumping
- Thoroughbred and Standardbred
- Fashions on the Field presented by Brisbane Racing Club

A new class in the Showjumping Competition is offering the largest prize money paid for any Off-The-Track exclusive showjumping class in Australia. The Queensland Off-The-Track Program Showcase offers an incredible \$50,000 in prize money and is presented by Queensland Off-The-Track, to promote life after racing opportunities for retired racehorses.



The class will be held on Monday 14 August in the Main Arena at 4pm. Meanwhile more than 15 breeds of horses from huge Clydesdales to small Shetland Ponies will be showcased over seven days of judging (Monday 14 to Sunday 20 August) in the Horse Competition. There are two new children's competition classes this year - Child's Show Pony Galloway & Hack and Child's Show Hunter Galloway & Hack. There is also a new class called Senior and Junior, which will see pairs of people enter from mentors and students to siblings and grandparents and grandchildren. Thoroughbred and Standardbred Day will be held on Monday 14 August. It's a race day style event where the two versatile racing breeds will compete for the sought-after Champion of their Breed Title. The Fashions on the Field Competition presented by Brisbane Racing Club is also held on this day, with entrants wearing their most stylish formal spring season race wear. There are plenty of prizes to be won for best dressed and best headwear across the nine competition classes (more information on page 61). For more horse competition judging highlights head to page 22.

Ian Ferguson (Ring Master and Councillor in charge)
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P

PADDOCK TO PALATE

- RNA Paddock to Palate Competition presented by JBS Australia
- Wagyu Challenge presented by JBS Australia

The Paddock to Palate competitions give Australian beef producers the

chance to collect valuable data to benchmark their cattle and boost their business. The competition is in its 26th year and offers almost \$55,000 in prize money. Paddock to Palate is three phased comprising best aggregate weight gain; carcass; and MSA eating quality. While the Wagyu Challenge is four phased finishing in a beef taste off judged by some of Queensland's top chefs. In total, more than 889 head of cattle have been entered, with the competitions judged prior to the Ekka and the overall winners announced at the Paddock to Palate and Beef Industry Dinner presented by JBS Australia in the Channel 7 Pavilion on Thursday 10 August at 6pm.

Gary Noller (RNA Councillor in Charge)
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PISCICULTURE

Ag Education Hall

The Pisciculture Competition features a diverse variety of breeds including common goldfish, cichlids, exotic tropical and freshwater fish, as well as crustaceans, amphibians and even aquatic plants. Judging will take place on Thursday 10 August from 2pm, with the entries then displayed in the Ag Education Hall over the nine days of Show. There is also a Nano Tank competition class, where exhibitors design and construct their entry live at the Show. Judging takes place on Saturday 12 August at 3pm.

Don Chandler (RNA Councillor in Charge)
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POULTRY, PIGEONS, BIRDS AND EGGS

Large Animal Pavilion (ground floor)

A variety of exquisite birds from parrots and racing pigeons to turkey and geese will be on display in the Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs Competition. Judging will take place on 11 August at 8.30am, with the awards presentation held on Saturday 12 August at 10.30am in the Large Animal Pavilion. There are two new egg-citing school classes in the egg section this year – Primary (Prep to Grade 6) and Senior (Grades 7-12). Three eggs will be submitted for judging, with the new classes a great way to teach students about Australia's egg industry.

Don Chandler (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0407 110 320

PRODUCE

Ag Education Hall

■ Youth in Agriculture

Produce of all shapes and sizes will be on display in the Ag Education Hall over the nine days of Show. In the Youth in Agriculture Competition, schools will create large produce displays featuring everything from fruit and vegetables to grasses and grains. The schools will construct their displays from Friday 4 August, with the awards presentation to be held on Sunday 13 August at 9am. The prized produce will be sold to Ekka visitors at dirt cheap prices on the last day of Show (Sunday 20 August) from 3pm.

Jamie Grant (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0409 207 105

Q

QUILTS ACROSS QUEENSLAND PRESENTED BY PILLOW TALK

Channel 7 Pavilion

The Quilts Across Queensland Competition has been running for more than two decades, with the stunning quilts on display in the Channel 7 Pavilion over the nine days of Show. Judging takes place on Sunday 30 July from 9am. There are two new competition classes this year - Abstract Art Quilt which is a free form expression of the maker's own creative design and Pictorial Art Quilt representing or depicting a person, place or object. The award winners will include the titles of Best of Show, Best Use of Colour, Hangers' Choice Award and Viewer's Choice Award.

Liz Allen (RNA Councillor in Charge)

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R

RAISING HY-LINE HENS

Large Animal Pavilion (ground floor)

Students will raise their very own laying hens in this cracking competition. This year, 17 schools from Queensland and New South Wales are taking part. The schools are judged on their three best birds, the eggs collected and a project outlining how they reared the hens. Judging will take place in the Large Animal Pavilion on Saturday 19 August at 10am.

Don Chandler (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0407 110 320

S

SHEEP DOG TRIALS

Main Arena (L8)

The Sheep Dog Trials will see the close working relationship between the entrants and their trusted best friends put to the test. The competition was first held at the Ekka in 1899, with the dogs judged on cast, approach, bridging, obstacle and general work. Eight dogs will compete on the Main Arena on Sunday 13 August from 11.30am, with the finals taking place from 2.30pm.

Ian Ferguson (Ring Master and Councillor in Charge)

T 0410 319 449

W

WOODCHOP AND SAWING

Woodchop Arena presented by AAM

The iconic Woodchop and Sawing Competition has been held at the Ekka for more than a century. The popular competition, which takes place across eight days of Show (12-19 August), this year has a prize pool worth more than \$145,000, up 45 per cent on 2022. This year the competition will also host four new Australian Title events – the 325mm Australian Women's Single Sawing Championship (Wednesday 16 August at 2.15pm), 375mm Australian Jack & Jill Double Handed Sawing Championship (Saturday 12 August at 3.20pm), 275mm Australian Women's Underhand Championship (Sunday 13 August at 3pm) and the 450mm Australian Double Handed Sawing Championship (Wednesday 16 August at 4.15pm). The Open Men's Trans-Tasman International Australia vs New Zealand Team Relay returns this year and will be held on the Monday (2pm), Wednesday (5pm) and Friday (2pm) of Show. Another highlight is the Under 13s Invitational 250mm Underhand competition on Saturday 12 (1.10pm) and Sunday 13 August (1.30pm), with the next generation of woodchoppers in action. Axemen and women of all ages compete at the Ekka – some are even fourth generation.

John Cotter (RNA Councillor in Charge)

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Y

YOUNG JUDGES

Several locations around grounds

The Young Judges Competition gives aspiring show judges the chance to showcase their talents in both live and virtual judging. There are 17 judging sections including beef cattle, alpacas, cake decorating and photography. The Young Judges Competition is open to people aged 25 years and under, with a Junior Class for under 15 year-olds and a Senior Class for 15 to 25 year-olds. The virtual competition, featuring stud sheep and poultry videos, takes place over June and July, while the live judging will happen at the Ekka across several days. Live judging highlights include:

- Stud beef – Thursday 10 August at 8am on the Main Arena
- Cake decorating – Tuesday 15 August at 9am in the Channel 7 Pavilion
- Dairy cattle – Wednesday 16 August at 1pm in the Large Animal Pavilion (Level 1)
- Dairy goats – Friday 18 August at 10am in the Large Animal Pavilion (Level 1)

Gary Noller (RNA Councillor in Charge)

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NEW THIS YEAR:

- Apiculture: new Junior Beekeeper Liquid Honey class
- Arts and Cookery (Cake Decorating): new class celebrating the 60th anniversary of the iconic Bertie Beetle chocolate
- Arts and Cookery (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
- Arts & Cookery (Natural Fibres Make & Model and Wearable Art Competition): New 1970's fashion era and steam punk themes, plus a new Adults in Wool class
- Arts and Cookery (Painting and Drawing): Two new youth classes displaying artworks from those aged 12 and under, plus 13-18 year olds
- Beef cattle (stud beef): the feature breed this year is Limousin. First time in the competition's history an international judge has featured - PJ Budler from the United States
- Beef cattle (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
- Fleece Breeds (Sheep): inclusion of Corriedale and Dorset Down breeds
- Fleece Breeds (Alpaca): new location Ag Education Hall
- Flower and Garden (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
- Horses (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: 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

JUDGES AND STEWARDS

The Ekka's judges and stewards play an important role in the success of the competitions. Close to 500 judges and stewards will this year be involved across the 46 competition sections. The time and effort they give allows the Ekka to run world-class competitions that recognise and reward hard-working exhibitors.

YOUTH COMPETITION CLASSES

The Show is the state's largest classroom and offers a range of interactive agricultural learning experiences and curriculum aligned educational competitions. Among the 46 competitions on offer at the Ekka, there are several open to young people and these explore food production, technology, innovation, and environmental agricultural practices. Our competitions give Queensland youth the opportunity to have a fun, hands-on experience while learning how agriculture plays an essential role in their everyday lives.

CLASSES	AGE GROUP
Young Judges Competition supported by the Queensland Government	Under 25
Junior BeeKeeper Liquid Honey - Apiculture Competition	Under 18
Dairy Youth Team Challenge - Dairy Cattle Competition	Under 25
All Breeds Youth Show - Dairy Cattle Competition	Under 18
Paraders Competition - Dairy Cattle Competition	Under 25
Junior Handlers Competition - Dairy Goat Competition	Under 18
Childs Show Hack, Galloway and Pony - Horse Competition	8 - 17 years
Childs Show Hunter Hack, Galloway and Pony - Horse Competition	8 - 17 years
Junior Rider Turnout - Horse Competition	8 - 17 years
Junior Rider Classes - Horse Competition	8 - 17 years
Parent and Child Riding Event - Horse Competition	Under 17
Senior and Junior Riding Event - Horse Competition	Any age
Young Riders - Showjumping Competition	16 - 21 years
Junior Led Heifer, Steer & Carcass Competition - Beef Competition	Under 18
Nutrien School's Judging Competition - Beef Competition	Under 18
Stud Beef Paraders - Beef Competition	Under 24
Handlers Competition - Sheep Competition	School students
Ekka Creative Clips Competition	Grades 5 - 12
Student Class - Bush Poetry Competition presented by Caravanning Queensland	Under 18
Awesome Showbag Competition	Prep to Grade 6
Little Sprouts supported by Brunnings	Prep to Grade 1
School Garden Competition supported by Brunnings	(Prep to Grade
School Scarecrow Competition supported by Brunnings	Kindergarden to Grade 6
Youth in Agriculture	13 - 25 years
Education on Show	Prep to Grade 6
Best Dressed Junior - Fashions on the Field Competition	15 - 17 years
Junior Section - Quilts Across Queensland	Under 18

