

9 August 2026

Mares, millinery and the Melbourne Cup – Monday's a winner at the 150th Ekka

Fillies, fashion and the Melbourne Cup will headline Monday at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) presented by Bank of Queensland (BOQ), after a bumper opening weekend drew strong crowds to the Brisbane Showgrounds.

The sun was out again today, and the Ekka delivered a packed Show program celebrating the best of Queensland with more than 45,000 people expected through the gates by night's end.

On Day Two there were classic Ekka moments at every turn, from Sheep Dog Trials and shorthair kitten judging to Australia's strongest men and women, and the ever-popular Woodchop and Sawing competition.

Tomorrow, Thoroughbred and Standardbred Day presented by Queensland Off-The-Track will bring race-day style and equine excellence to the Main Arena, with a regional Queensland public holiday set to boost crowds at the People's Show.

Ekka visitors can also enjoy the first Super Saver Day with 20% off entry tickets online (Monday 10, Tuesday 11, Thursday 13 and Friday 14 August).

Here's what's in store tomorrow – Day 3 – at Queensland's most-loved event:

Day 3: Monday 10 August – HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA DOORSTOP – 11.15am, Heritage Hill

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

JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS:

- From 8.30am – Thoroughbred and Standardbred Day presented by QOTT – Including Champion & Reserve Champion Thoroughbred Gelding at 10.20am and Champion & Reserve Champion Thoroughbred Stallion, Supreme Champion Thoroughbred and Most Successful Exhibitor from 10.50am, Main Arena
- 9.30am – Fashions on the Field, XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill
- From 3.15pm – Horse Competition – Smartest on Parade, Gentlemen Rider and Lady Rider Classes (Ring 1), Main Arena
- From 8.30am – Dog Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Non-Sporting Judging in Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion and Agility and Jumping in Stockman's Rest

- From 9am – Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Longhair Cats Judging – Sushi Hub Cat Precinct
- From 9.30am – Woodchop and Sawing – Including final classes for Jack & Jill 375mm Double Handed Sawing Handicap at 10.54am, Father and Son 250mm Combination Relay Handicap (Underhand and Standing) at 11.06am, 300mm Underhand Royal Queensland Show Championship at 12.15pm, and Veterans 250mm Standing Block Handicap at 4.40pm, Woodchop Arena presented by AAM

HORSES REIN SUPREME AT THOROUGHBRED AND STANDARDBRED DAY

When: From 8.30am - Main Arena

The prestigious Thoroughbred and Standardbred Day presented by Queensland Off-The-Track is a race day style event where the two versatile racing breeds will compete for the sought-after Champion of their Breed Title. This is one of the most glamorous days on the Ekka schedule with the competitors presenting their animals to the judges in formal race attire.

STYLE TAKES CENTRE-STAGE AT FASHIONS ON THE FIELD

When: 9.30am, XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

Celebrate elegance and race-day glamour at the Ekka's most stylish competition, Fashions on the Field. This elegant competition sees Queensland's most stylish entrants take centre stage at XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill, showcasing their interpretation of classic race day glamour.

This year's competition features two new stylish classes to celebrate the 150th anniversary show: Fashions of the Past (pre-1960) and Fashions for the Future, plus Best Dressed Lady (18–40 years), Best Dressed Lady (40 years and over), Best Dressed Gentleman (18 years and over), Best Dressed Junior (15–17 years), Best Dressed Pair, Best Millinery / Headwear (Unisex).

THE PEOPLE'S CUP HELPS CELEBRATE THE 150TH EKKA

When: Main Arena

Experience history in the making when the iconic \$1 million Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour joins the spectacular 150th Ekka celebrations at the Show this week. The Melbourne Cup's journey to the Ekka in this milestone year, commemorates the remarkable history and traditions of both events and their enduring connections within their communities.

On Monday, the Cup will be on display in the Main Arena during Thoroughbred and Standardbred Day presented by QOTT, on Tuesday get your photo with the Melbourne Cup in Gourmet Plaza from 12:45pm–1:45pm, and on Wednesday catch the legendary trophy as part of the People's Day Grand Parade.

HUMAN MARVELS SIDE SHOW CIRCUS

When: 2pm, 3pm, 4pm daily, 7NEWS Community Pavilion

Step right up and get ready to be amazed by the extraordinary feats of the Human Marvels Side Show Circus. Perfect for the whole family, this high-energy production features incredible acts of skill from

three larger-than-life performers including international strongman, *The Great Gordo Gamsby*, the sword-swallowing *Space Cowboy*, and master contortionist *Ruby Rubberlegs*.

Recipient of 11 Guinness World Records, Gordo is a master of extreme stunts which combine precision timing and remarkable physical control, the Space Cowboy (Chayne Hultgren – 56 Guinness World Records) performs a number of jaw dropping acts including sword swallowing and chainsaw juggling on a tall unicycle, while Ruby Rubberlegs (Rani Huszar) presents a delightfully daring contortion routine, bending, twisting, and manipulating her entire body into a tiny see-through box.

SEW MUCH TALENT AT QUILTS ACROSS QUEENSLAND PRESENTED BY PILLOW TALK **When: 7NEWS Community Pavilion**

Quilts Across Queensland presented by Pillow Talk has been a beloved Ekka tradition for more than two decades. Must-see entries include the Group quilt made by two or more people, the Junior Section for talented quilters under 18, and Open Modern quilts featuring a contemporary approach to quilting and design. To celebrate 150 years of the Royal Queensland Show, a new Class – Ekka Memories – invites entrants to stitch together their memories of Ekka.

EKKA LOVE ON SHOW AT SINGLES MINGLE MONDAY **When: 8pm – 10.30pm – XXXX Stockman's Bar and Grill**

Step into a world where comedy meets Cupid at Singles Mingle Monday, hosted by the Sit Down Comedy Club. Quick-witted comedian and crowd-favourite host Kat Davidson will ensure this is anything but a typical night out. It's part stand-up show, part dating spectacle – where brave singles are plucked from the crowd for on-stage blind dates, complete with cheeky questions, hilarious twists and an arena full of cheerleaders.

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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