

Ekka

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

Presented By:



COUNTRY MUSIC SHOWDOWN SCHEDULE



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STOCKY'S



ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN!

Competition will be held at The Ekka Saturday 15th August 2026.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Country Music Showdown

Ekka's Country Music Showdown (CMS) is an annual talent competition held during the Royal Queensland Show (the Ekka) in Brisbane. It's designed to discover and support emerging country music artists from across Australia. Receive feedback from industry professionals and compete to win over \$80,000 in cash and prizes.

Who Can Enter

- Junior Category – between the ages of 12 and 17 years as of 30 June 2026.
- Open Category – over 18 years of age as at 30 June 2026

Entry Rules

- Submit a video of two live performances (one cover and one optional original)
- Entries close Tuesday 30th June 2026 00:00 EST
- Finalists will be notified by email by Monday 6th July 2026
- Finalists are required to submit their bio, charts and competition entry fee no later than Wednesday 15th July 2026 5:00pm EST
- Finalists will compete live at Ekka, Saturday 15th August 2026



ENTRY RESTRICTIONS

- Entry is open to amateur and semi-professional artists only. A semi-professional is one who earns some money as a performer but is not dependent on such income for a living.
- All material performed must be in the country genre and must be accompanied by the correct charts and key
- Entrants who win 1st place in the Junior or Open category may not compete in the same category again
- All entrants competing in the Junior Category must be between the ages of 12 and 17 years as of 30 June 2026.
- All entrants competing in the Open Category must be over 18 years of age as at 30 June 2026.

Entry Fees

Entry to the Open Category of the competition will incur a fee of \$65 and entry into the Junior Category will incur a fee of \$50. This fee is to be paid upon qualifying into the finals. There are limited spaces in the competition. Entrants will be advised of their success after the closing date. There will be no refund of fees should the entrant change their mind or if the entrant fails to register on the day, except in special circumstances at the discretion of management. This fee includes an entry ticket into the grounds for the competitor (and one additional guardian ticket for entrants in the Junior Category).

Maximum Entries

Up to two people per entry permitted (solo or duo) – only one prize is allocated to each entry into the competition.

Entry Procedures

To enter entrants must, during the Competition Period, visit the Ekka Website and register their details. Entrants must submit two (2) links of a YouTube video of them performing during the Video Solicit Period. Entrants are not required to submit an original song. However, if they choose to do so, only one (1) of their two (2) submissions may be an original



COMPETITION DETAILS

This is a competition of skill. Entrants in both the Junior and Open Category will be judged by a panel of industry experts with three place getters in each category being selected – first, second, third and an overall People's Choice Award. Judges' decisions are final. Upon request, judging sheets may be supplied to the entrant after completion of the event at the discretion of the Ekka management.

Timing of Events

All entrants must be present for registration at their given time at the registration desk, located in XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill.

All entrants must present themselves to the Stage Manager twenty minutes prior to their performance and remain in the back stage area ready to go on stage. All entrants must be in attendance for the judging and awards ceremony.

Every effort will be made to adhere to the program, but changes may be made at the discretion of Ekka management.

Equipment

Due to space restrictions, the instruments permitted on stage will include: all instruments for use by the backing band and one (1) instrument to be played by the entrant. If you are part of a duo or have an accompanying instrument and musician then additional instruments may be permitted at the discretion of management.

Apart from the entrant's own instrument/s, the drums supplied by Ekka management will be the only equipment which contestants are permitted to use or operate. No pre-recorded backing music which includes midi or drum machines may be used. No pre-recorded backing vocals will be permitted.

Dress Code

The entrants must be in suitable stage attire, neat country dress encouraged. No singlets, shorts or thongs are to be worn on stage. No logos, slogans, or statements featured.



Notification of Entrants

Entrants will be notified of their success to become a finalist by email by Monday 6th June 2026 by 5:00pm EST June. Finalists will be asked to pay the entry fee and submit their music scores/chord charts and .mp3s so the Ekka Team can pass it onto the backing band so they have time to rehearse the songs. Should finalists require charts, this can be arranged for an additional fee of \$30 per song/chart. Finalists who do not pay the entry fee by Wednesday 15th July 2026 00:00 EST will not be permitted to perform.

Cancellations

Management reserves the right to limit or cancel any performances without notice. Depending on the availability of entrants, replacements will be accepted at the discretion of Ekka management.

Publication Details

Ekka management reserve the right to publish winner(s) on the website www.ekka.com.au and social media.

Prize Claim Details

Prizes must be claimed at the time of the announcement or as otherwise specified by the Promoter.

Unclaimed Prize Arrangements

Ekka management reserves the right to re-award unclaimed prizes to the next placed entrant. All redeemable prizes will be valid for a 12 month period from winning announcement. If not redeemed prize will become forfeited.



ADDITIONAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Ekka and participating sponsors are not responsible for mutilated, mis-uploaded or late contest entries.
- Winners are responsible for applicable travel and accommodation, if required.
- Management will not be responsible for any loss or injury to persons or property throughout Ekka. Each entrant shall not encourage any person/s up on stage. Each entrant must behave professionally at all times. There is to be no swearing and artists must not perform songs that contain inappropriate themes or language or they will face disqualification.
- Ekka has permission to take photographs of performers and has full copyright. Ekka reserves the right to use any images taken of performers on social media, websites, advertisements and any other format for marketing and publicity opportunities.
- Ekka will have full control of all advertising either by radio/newspaper/flyers etc. Any entrants wishing to advertise on their social media pages or websites may do so however you may not use the Ekka logo without prior approval.
- There is no parking on the grounds. There is ample public transport to and from the grounds and alternative parking is available within walking distance of the grounds.

*Please note: failure to adhere to any of the above criteria may result in immediate disqualification. Terms and Conditions are subject to change at discretion of Ekka management.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

The attention of Exhibitors is drawn to the fact that all entries that are accepted will be subject to the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Act 1971, as well as to the By-Laws, General Regulations of the Association and any Competition Specific Regulations which appear in this schedule.

Judging will be performed by a panel of Judges appointed by the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland.

No refunds will be made after close of entry. No refunds will be given for entries not presented or not adhering to the schedule regulations.

NOTICE TO INTENDING EXHIBITORS

Entries for the Royal Queensland Show can ONLY be made online through our [Exhibitor Portal](#). Entries submitted other than on the online portal will be returned to the Exhibitor and, unless all requirements are submitted online by 5.00pm on the Application to Enter closing date, as shown in the Schedule, they will not be considered.

As a condition for acceptance of all entries, all exhibitors/competitors agree to the following:

- All information submitted as part of my exhibitor profile is true and correct, including taxation status and bank account information.
- Neither myself nor my family members will indulge in any social, professional or other interaction with an official or judge contracted or sub- contracted by the RNA before or during the Royal Queensland Show.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

You can be assured that the privacy of your personal information is of the utmost importance to us. The information provided by you in any application for membership or application to enter is used by the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) to offer member services or to organize and conduct competitions at the Royal Queensland Show. By applying for membership or entering such competitions you consent to provide such details as your name, address and exhibit details. Competition information may be made available to the media and included in RNA publications.

The exhibitor irrevocably consents to the RNA publishing or reproducing in any manner whatsoever any particulars or information in relation to their exhibits; the publication or reproduction may be in a printed form or visual image through electronic means and/or on the internet. Your information will not be disclosed without your consent for any other purpose unless required by the law. By providing your email address you are consenting to receive communications from us relating to the Royal Queensland Show. For full privacy details visit <https://www.rna.org.au/privacy-policy.aspx>

PRIZE MONEY

1. Prize Money stated in the Schedule excludes GST.
2. All Prizes and Prize Monies are SUBJECT TO CHANGE at the discretion of the Competition Committee
3. GST will be added to the Prize Money for Exhibitors who are registered for GST purposes.
4. Prize money will be paid into your nominated bank account by 31 October following the Show.
5. The Association will provide a "Recipient Created Tax Invoice" to Exhibitors who are registered for GST purposes
6. All cash prizes and trophies must be claimed within six months from the closing date of the Royal Queensland Show. Prizes not claimed and by that date will be considered to have lapsed, and the amount will become a donation to the Association. (RNA By-Laws)

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. The Brisbane Showgrounds are a designated Workplace within the meaning of the Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 and exhibitors/competitors are required to ensure that they and all persons under their direction or control, including their contractors or sub-contractors, comply with all requirements of the Act and the RNA holds each exhibitor responsible to discharge its obligations to provide and maintain a safe place and system of work during occupation by the exhibitor of any area of the Showgrounds.
2. Each exhibitor/competitor will assess the risk to themselves, staff, volunteers, family, other exhibitors, RNA staff, show visitors, children and any person foreseeably affected by the presentation of their exhibit.
3. Risks identified by exhibitors/competitors will be eliminated or controlled by the exhibitor/competitor and particular attention will be paid to ensuring public safety and safety of other exhibitors/competitors.
4. Exhibits will only be held and handled by competent persons whose experience is known to the exhibitor/competitor.
5. A "No Smoking Policy" will be strictly adhered to and policed by exhibitors/competitors and all are advised that the use of Primus stoves, any heating or lighting appliances of a like character, or any naked light, is strictly prohibited in the pavilions.
6. Any exhibitors/competitors intending to bring electrical equipment to the Showgrounds will be required to ensure that such equipment is fitted with residual current protection and that all electrical leads, tools and appliances have been inspected by a licensed electrical contractor and currently tagged. The use of double adaptors is prohibited, and all power boards must also be tested and tagged.
7. All exhibitors/competitors will comply with the requirements of the Act and its Regulations and Standards in every other respect. This is essential for the safety of all exhibitors/competitors and the general public. The Act imposes very severe penalties in the event of noncompliance with its provisions. Anyone who do not comply will not be allowed to exhibit at the Royal Queensland Show.
8. The Brisbane Showgrounds is subject to a Special Facility License issued under the Liquor Act 1992 and strict laws related to the consumption and possession of liquor across the Brisbane Showgrounds site. The consumption or possession of liquor outside of the licensed bar areas is not authorized by the RNA and in many cases may be an offence for which on the spot fines can be issued by Police and Liquor Licensing Investigators.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

140. If there is any inconsistency between By-laws 141 - 162 and any other By-laws of the Association, By-laws 141 - 162 will prevail.
141. The functions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be to hear and determine all complaints, allegations and other matters relating to:
- prohibited substances, as defined in these By-laws or Sectional Regulations.
 - any alleged breach of the Rules, By-Laws and Regulations of the Association by an exhibitor and relating to an exhibit or to a competition, except if the alleged breach is of a kind that the Chairman of a Sectional Committee considers is of a less serious nature and should properly be dealt with by the Sectional Committee, and
 - any other alleged breach of the Rules, By-Laws and Regulations of the Association that may be referred to Disciplinary Committee pursuant to By-Law 145.
155. The Disciplinary Committee may announce its decision orally or in writing. A decision that is announced orally shall have effect in accordance with its terms.
156. If the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee is not unanimous, the decision of the majority shall prevail. If the Disciplinary Committee are equally divided on any question concerning the guilt or innocence of a person, the question shall be resolved in that person's favour.
157. If the Disciplinary Committee considers that there has been a breach of the rules, By-laws or regulations of the Association, it may impose such a penalty as it considers to be appropriate, including without limitation:
- a reprimand.
 - a monetary fine (payable at such time/s as the Disciplinary Committee may determine)
 - withdrawal or withholding of any award or ribbon.
 - disqualification in respect of any class.
 - expulsion from the Showground.
 - where the person concerned is a member, a suspension or termination of that membership.
 - a ban.
 - exclusion.
 - prohibiting a Person from exhibiting or competing at the current Show or at any future Show.
 - a direction that an Exhibit be removed from the Showground.
 - any other mandatory requirement; and
 - any other penalty provided for in other regulations of the Association.
158. There shall be no appeal from any decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

INSURANCE

170. The RNA may (but is not obliged to) take out a policy of insurance in respect of the legal liability on the part of an Exhibitor for loss or damage suffered by a third party caused by any act or omission of an Exhibit or the Exhibitor.
171. The RNA, RNA Staff Members and Officials of the RNA are not liable to any Exhibitor if the RNA fails to take out a policy of insurance effectively protecting any Exhibitor or Exhibit, or if any such policy does not operate to indemnify the Exhibitor in respect of the loss or damage in question.

REGULATIONS & BY-LAWS

All Entries and Exhibitors are subject to RNA Regulations and By-Laws set out in this schedule as well as other By-Laws that may pertain to this competition.

The RNA always reserves the right at its absolute discretion without assigning any reason to:

- substitute a Judge when necessary.
- re-allocate Judging days for a particular breed.
- if entries numbers require an extra Judge, appoint an additional Judge if necessary.

Full copies of the RNA By-Laws may be obtained upon application to the Competitions Department.

If you are unsure of any of the rules stated in this schedule or your eligibility to enter the competition, please contact the entries department at entries@royalqueenslandshow.com.au

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The RNA's ABN is 41 417 513 726

Ekka

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Presented By:



ENTERTAINMENT

