

# NIGHT TIME ENTERTAINMENT

## Ekka INFERNO NITES

EkkaNITES Inferno is a fiery tribute to the land, the people and the stories that burn brightly in the heart of Australia.

Each night, the Main Arena blazes to life with flame-fuelled stunts, heart-racing action, and powerful performances that celebrate the raw beauty and resilience of the outback.

From the crackle of fire to the thunder of engines and the rhythm of the land, this is a night where the elements collide in an unforgettable spectacle.

Highlights include:

- **A Brumby's Run** – feel the spirit of the Australian bush in this breathtaking tribute to wild horses, brought to life by renowned stockman Dave Manchon.
- **Full Throttle Fury** – get ready to roar as the arena ignites with the Inferno Monster Truck, Hot Wheels Heroes super trucks, and Australia's top FMX riders soaring sky-high.
- **The sound of the land** – didgeridoo master eMDee weaves his electrifying sound throughout the night's performances, grounding the spectacle in ancient tradition
- **Inferno Fireworks Spectacular** – the night explodes in a grand finale of pyrotechnics, fire artists, jet cars, Monster Truck action, and flames that light up the sky in a fiery celebration of Australian energy and spirit

### 6.30pm – 8pm EkkaNITES program

Aussie Dogs - Collies vs Kelpies (Sheep Dog Demonstrations presented by Jonathan and Mikalya)
Buck the Bronco and Jericho Jack the Saddle-Riding Bullock
Queensland Police Service Pipes & Drums – AC/DC Tribute
Australian National Anthem featuring Emma Irene (Vocals), Liz Young (Violin) & eMDee (Didgeridoo)
Motorcycle Chariots by Flair Action Sports
Coca-Cola Dance Cam with the Smashing Bumpkins and the Farmyard Friends Mascots
A Brumby's Run - Wild Horses in Full Flight presented by Dave Manchon
Smashing Bumpkins Karaoke presented by Pretty Women the Musical at QPAC
Full Throttle Fury – 'Inferno' the Monster Truck
Full Throttle Fury - Hot Wheels Heros: Super Truck Show
Full Throttle Fury - Aussie FMX Freestyle Firestorm
INFERNO Fireworks Spectacular featuring eMDee (Didgeridoo) and the Flux Pyro Spinners, Motorbike Chariots, Monster Truck 'Inferno' and Jet Car 'Combat Dragon'





## ***INFERNO Fireworks Spectacular***

Bigger, brighter and bolder than ever, the Inferno Fireworks Spectacular is set to light up the Brisbane skyline with a high-octane fusion of firepower, performance and cutting-edge technology.

This year's explosive show brings together monster trucks, Roman-style chariots and the Combat Dragon jet car in a thunderous Main Arena showdown.

At the heart of the spectacle are fourth-generation fireworks legends, Andrew and Christian Howard, with 72 launch points delivering dazzling colour-changing effects, waterfall shells and surround-sky brilliance.

Their precision pyromusical is elevated by Ash Neuendorf's lighting masterpiece, featuring lasers three times brighter than ever before and over 1,000m of fibre optics for seamless arena-wide synchronisation.

Returning for their third year, Flux Entertainment unleashes custom pyro-spinning fire acts, hand-held effects and jaw-dropping synchronicity that transforms each night into a living canvas of flame.

Adding a powerful cultural layer, internationally renowned didgeridoo virtuoso eMDee will perform live atop the Main Arena's LED screen, his thunderous solos opening each show and laying the sonic foundation for the fireworks to ignite.

From epic fire artistry to arena-spanning light and sound, this is the most ambitious fireworks production in Ekka history.

Brace yourself for the ultimate fusion of fire, speed and sky-high spectacle!



### *Aussie Dogs - Collies vs Kelpies (Sheep Dog Demonstrations presented by Jonathan and Mikalya)*

Get ready for a high-energy showdown as a Border Collie and Kelpie go paw-to-paw in a celebration of Australia's ultimate working dogs.

In this action-packed display, Jonathan and Mikalya from Jono's Sheep Services will showcase the incredible talents of their four-legged friends, as they demonstrate their natural instincts, sharp intelligence and finely tuned training in the art of sheep herding.

Discover what sets these two iconic breeds apart and why both are considered a farmer's best friend.

### *NEW! UniSC Mechatronic Robotic Sheep Dogs (13 - 16 August only)*

See robodogs herding sheep in the Main Arena - where technology meets traditional farming.

Using the Unitree Go1 quadruped robot, UniSC students are collaborating with farmers to develop an autonomous system to herd sheep using AI, sensors, and real-time decision-making.

It's a hands-on example of how the uni is working with industries to solve challenges and create a better tomorrow.

Whether you find the dogs creepy, cute or you're just plain curious - this demonstration is well worth the watch!

### *Buck the Bronco*

Get ready to cheer, Queensland - Buck the Horse, the beloved mascot of the mighty Brisbane Broncos NRL team, is trotting into the spotlight at this year's Ekka!

Famous for his high-energy canter around the field every time the Broncos score a try, Buck is more than just a mascot - he's a fan favourite and a proud symbol of Queensland spirit.

Whether it's game day at Suncorp Stadium or a special appearance at the Ekka, Buck never fails to bring the hype and get the crowd on their feet.

### *Jericho Jack*

Jericho Jack is a four-year-old Brahman X Hereford bullock from the Rooftop Express Show rewriting the rulebook on arena stars.

Combining the strength of a Brahman with the gentle nature of a Hereford, Jack isn't just any beast, he's a saddle-ridden showstopper, calmly carrying seasoned riders around the Main Arena during EkkaNITES.

Trained with patience and precision by Scott Googe from Hunter Valley Horse Riding, Jack has captured hearts with his unique talent and the deep trust he shares with his rider.

### *NEW! Queensland Police Pipes & Drums - AC/DC Tribute*

Get ready to rock out like never before as the Queensland Police Pipes & Drums take on the iconic sounds of AC/DC.

In a performance that's equal parts power and precision to

officially open the night show, this unique tribute blends the raw energy of classic Aussie rock with the stirring sound of the pipes and drums - you've never heard AC/DC quite like this!

Think 'Thunderstruck' and 'It's A Long Way to the Top' delivered with tartan attitude, before Inferno the monster truck growls to life, Ignite the jet-engine car spits flame and the Flux fire spinners set the night ablaze.

Don't miss this electrifying opener - where tartan meets rock, and EkkaNITES truly ignites!

### *Australian National Anthem featuring Emma Irene, Liz Young (Violin) & eMDee (Didgeridoo)*

Experience a stirring rendition of the Australian National Anthem, brought to life by a unique trio of musical talents.

With the soulful vocals of Emma Irene, the emotive strings of violinist Liz Young, and the deep, resonant tones of eMDee on didgeridoo, this special performance blends classical finesse and the ancient sounds of the didgeridoo.

Together, they create a heartfelt and culturally rich tribute that celebrates unity, identity and the spirit of our nation.

In an Australian and Ekka first, a technologically advanced, high payload, wind dynamic, 4-blade drone will soar above, proudly flying a massive six metre Australian flag around the Main Arena, synchronized with the national anthem. This innovative display will create a visually stunning and emotionally resonant experience for the Ekka crowd.

- **eMDee** - From the wild heart of Humpty Doo to the world stage, eMDee is one of Australia's most electrifying independent music artists. A didgeridoo master with more than 30 years of global touring, 15 studio albums, and over 75,000 records sold, his ground-breaking fusion of ancient yidaki and high-octane percussion has redefined what the instrument can be both sonically and culturally.
- **Emma Irene** - Emma is a singer, actor, presenter and voice teacher. She is currently a lead performer at Village Roadshow Theme Parks' Australian Outback Spectacular. Emma gigs regularly in pop, country, jazz, soul, and Latin genres, as both a solo artist and with her band, The Emma Irene and David Watts Quartet. She is also a member of the RNA Future Directions Committee.
- **Liz Young** - Liz is an electrifying violinist and performer whose dynamic stage presence brings a unique spark to every show. As a key member of The Smashing Bumpkins, Liz infuses traditional Australian bush dances with a rock-and-roll flair, captivating audiences

### *Motorcycle Chariots by Flair Action Sports*

Chariot racing like you've never seen before!

EkkaNITES will light up the night with Motorcycle Chariots - an explosive, high-octane spectacle from the daredevils at Flair Action Sports.

High-powered trial bikes will pull custom-built chariots across the Main Arena in a jaw-dropping display of control, chaos and pure adrenaline.

With stunt drivers standing tall atop the moving machines, the performance fuses Roman-style theatrics with Aussie motorsport madness - rider vs rider in a wild race of skill and showmanship.

Move over, Ben Hur - these chariots are turbocharged! Sparks will fly and engines will scream as riders push speed and stunt to the absolute limit!

- **Jack Field** - Known for defying gravity and reimagining what two wheels can do, Jack Field returns to EkkaNITES 2025. A veteran of the Australian freestyle trials scene, Jack is the founder of Flair Riders, one of the country's most in-demand stunt entertainment teams. Starting his career on a PW50 at just four years old, Jack has since toured globally, won national trials championships and performed in over 1,000 live shows. His high-octane style and innovation have earned him roles in major action

productions, including Hollywood blockbusters like Mad Max: Fury Road and The Wolverine, where he worked as a motorcycle stunt double.

### *Coca-Cola Dance Cam with the Smashing Bumpkins and the Farmyard Friends Mascots*

Get ready to dance like nobody's watching - except the whole arena!

Join The Smashing Bumpkins and the lovable Farmyard Friends Ekka mascots as the Coca-Cola Dance Cam scans the crowd for the best moves and biggest smiles.

It's your chance to shine on the big screen and kick up your heels in true EkkaNITES style!

Each night, five of the best dancers in the crowd will be rewarded with a Coke prize pack.

## *A Brumby's Run - Wild Horses in Full Flight presented by Dave Manchon*

Experience the untamed beauty of Australia's wild horses in A Brumby's Run - Wild Horses in Full Flight, brought to life by renowned horseman Dave Manchon.

This year, Dave has turned to Banjo Paterson for inspiration, with the show set to excerpts from the poet's 'A Brumby's Run.'

The night-time epic sees more than 20 brumbies thunder across the arena in a choreographed liberty sweep, their raw power framed by sweeping spotlights and low-rolling fog.

A dream sequence follows, with a herd of shimmering ponies cantering through laser-lit mist while a young cowgirl, angel wings outspread, invites city children to believe in bush magic.

As the tempo rises, singer Emma Irene takes centre stage with a stirring vocal performance, as a massive Australian flag unfurls from horseback and circles the arena before settling over a poised Australian Stock Horse.

Every audience member will feel the heartbeat of the bush galloping past their seats.

With brumbies at full flight, Paterson's words in the air and pyrotechnics overhead, A Brumby's Run promises to be the most stirring chapter yet in EkkaNITES' celebration of Queensland spirit.

- **Dave Manchon** - Raised on Queensland's Darling Downs, Dave Manchon broke his first colt long before he earned his driver's licence, setting the course for a career deeply rooted in horsemanship. With over two decades of experience, Dave's expertise spans colt-starting, reining, trick-riding and producing large-scale equine shows that blend skill, storytelling and spectacle. He's become one of Australia's most respected and creative horsemen, known for his ability to connect audiences with the raw power and beauty of the horse.





# FULL THROTTLE FURY

## *Inferno Monster Truck*

Experience the thunderous roar and adrenaline-pumping action of Full Throttle Fury – Inferno Monster Truck, driven by none other than Matt MacCormack, one of Australia's most seasoned and electrifying monster truck drivers.

Feel the ground shake as Matt brings Inferno roaring into the Main Arena - delivering high-octane energy, earth-shattering power and pure track-shredding action.

Brought to you by Monster Trucks Australia, this mechanical beast is big, bold and built to thrill - and no one handles it like Matt.

A crowd favourite for kids and families – you'll feel every rev, roar and rumble.

**Matt MacCormack** - Off the dirt and under the hood, Matt boasts a remarkable 18-year career as a V8 Supercar mechanic, having worked with legendary teams such as Garry Rogers Motorsport, Kelly Racing, and the Holden Racing Team. His career has spanned championship-winning cars, including Bathurst 1000 victors, numerous V8 Supercar race winners, and the 2023 Super3 Series champion. Now the lead driver for Monster Trucks Australia, he tours nationally thrilling audiences.

## *Hot Wheels Heroes Super Truck Show*

Buckle up for a turbo-charged show as the Hot Wheels Mini Monster Truck and Hot Wheels Harley bring a spectacular fusion of speed, power and flames to the Main Arena.

Legendary stuntman Matt Mingay and his son Madzy will set the Main Arena alight – literally!

As the Hot Wheels Mini Monster Truck cruises the arena, twin flame cannons will erupt in synchronised bursts, while show-stopping burnouts will send smoke billowing and tyres screaming.

This high-octane spectacle combines flame-filled motion, tyre-shredding stunts and thunderous sound to deliver an electrifying, all-ages show that will keep the audience on the edge of their seats.

Get ready - every moment is pure, high-octane adrenaline!

**Matt Mingay** – is a world-renowned professional stunt rider and action sports athlete who's been thrilling crowds since turning pro in 1997. A multiple-time Australian Stunt Riding Champion, Matt is known for pushing the limits with jaw-dropping stunts, fearless precision, and an infectious passion for motorsport.

**Madzy Mingay** – Madzy is Matt Mingay's 18-year-old son, who has been riding motorbikes since just before his third birthday. Following in his father's tyre tracks, Madzy is already showing incredible skill, wowing crowds with his fearless attitude and natural talent. He first appeared in EkkaNITES at the age of nine in 2019. A rising star of the stunt and motorsports world, Madzy is one to watch as he continues to rev up the next generation of thrill seekers.







## *Aussie FMX Freestyle Firestorm*

Back by overwhelming popular demand, Aussie FMX roars into the Main Arena bigger, louder and wilder than ever.

Australia's elite freestyle-motocross daredevils will rocket a jaw-dropping 75 feet sky-high, twisting, flipping and spinning their bikes in a gravity-defying ballet of horsepower and sheer nerve.

The talented riders will unleash a rapid-fire arsenal of heart-stopping tricks - heel-clickers, seat grabs, back-flips and more - that will leave kids wide-eyed and grown-ups gasping for breath.

This action-packed showcase is an adrenaline rush you can feel in your chest. One moment the riders are airborne silhouettes against the Brisbane night sky, the next they're streaking past in a blur of steel and neon, only to launch again into jaw-dropping aerial mayhem.

Strap-in, hold tight and don't blink - Aussie FMX is guaranteed to pin you to the edge of your seat and leave you craving one more impossible jump.

- **Brodie Carmichael** – From Boonah, Queensland, three-time world record holder Brodie Carmichael is one of the world's most daring freestyle motocross riders. He made global headlines in 2017 with a world-first trick at the Nitro World Games in the USA, and in 2019, made Ekka history by becoming the only person ever to land a front flip to a steel down ramp – a feat still unmatched.
- **Tyler Wakeford** - From Allora, Queensland, Tyler Wakeford is one of Australia's most exciting rising stars in freestyle motocross. He burst onto the scene in 2019, winning 1st place in the Whip Competition at the AUS X Open. In 2024, Tyler took his talent global, performing at the Indonesia Supercrosser, where his fearless style and high-flying tricks wowed international crowds.
- **Tom Robinson** – From Temora, NSW, Tom Robinson brings nearly two decades of freestyle motocross experience to the arena. His career launched with back-to-back national titles – Australian Amateur FMX Champion (2012) and Pro FMX Champion (2013). In 2016, he earned a spot at the prestigious Red Bull X-Fighters Madrid, where he made history by inventing and landing the world's first body varial trick on the X-Fighters stage. Tom is a true innovator and veteran of the sport.
- **Amber Enright** - From the Gold Coast, Amber Enright is Australia's leading female FMX emcee, known for her electrifying energy and crowd-commanding presence. With freestyle motocross in her blood, Amber started riding at just 13 years old and has since become the powerhouse voice behind some of the country's biggest action sports shows.

## *Smashing Bumpkins Karaoke presented by Pretty Women the Musical at QPAC*

Join crowd favourites The Smashing Bumpkins for a rip-roaring, area-sized karaoke experience like no other.

No need to grab a mic, just sing along with the band and follow the words on the big screen, with Roy Orbison's Pretty Women bound to be on the song list!

This is your moment to unite with thousands of voices in the Main Arena and belt it out loud and proud.

Get ready for a fun-filled sing-along that will have the whole crowd joining in—because sometimes, the best is right where you're standing!

## *Meet the Stars Under the Stars*

When the fireworks fade and the engines cool, the night is far from over at EkkaNITES.

Step up to the edge of the Main Arena and experience a magical Ekka moment as your favourite performers make their way back to greet fans.

Snap a selfie with a fire-spinning artist, grab an autograph from a monster truck driver or high-five a freestyle motocross daredevil.

No backstage pass needed!

## *Meet the EkkaNITES hosts*

### **Farmer Dave Graham**

From the red dirt plains of western Queensland to the bright lights of the Main Arena, Farmer Dave Graham brings true-blue charm, humour and heartfelt authenticity to EkkaNITES 2025.

With his signature blend of warmth, wit and rural pride, Dave brings a grounded, heartfelt energy to the show.

### **Rhianna Buchanan**

From stunt driving in Hollywood to roaring across stadiums in five-tonne machines, Rhianna Buchanan has spent over a decade at the heart of Australia's live entertainment and motorsport scenes.

Blending her deep motorsport credentials with show-stopping stagecraft, Rhianna brings both energy and experience to EkkaNITES, ready to light up the arena with every introduction and keep the crowd on the edge of their seats.

## *Behind the scenes of EkkaNITES:*

### **Jack Ellison – Producer**

Jack Ellison returns for an astonishing 11th consecutive year as Producer of EkkaNITES. A former professional athlete and world-record-holding freestyle jumper, Jack has channelled his adrenaline-fueled roots into H2O Events, Australia's leading special events production company.

### **Tony Laffan – Head of Ekka Entertainment & EkkaNITES Creative Producer**

For 13 years, Tony Laffan has been the creative visionary and artistic producer behind EkkaNITES. A true showman

with a rich background as an international illusionist, magician, and hypnotist, Tony's work fuses the spectacular with the meaningful, crafting shows that are deeply rooted in Queensland spirit.

**Kris Thiesfield** - The creative firestorm and co-owner of Flux Entertainment, Kris is a professional fire artist with over 10 years of experience. As a licensed pyrotechnician and groundbreaking pyrotechnics performance artist, Kris is known for dancing with fireworks and pushing the boundaries of what entertainment can be.

**Madison Young** - With a background in competitive ballroom, co-owner of Flux Entertainment Madison Young brings elegance and intensity to every performance. She has eight years of experience as a professional fire artist.

**David Nicotra** - Back by popular demand, Australia's king of jet-powered chaos, David Nicotra, brings his infamous flame-spitting beast, the Combat Dragon, back to EkkaNITES. A legend in the motorsport and stunt show circuit, David has spent more than a decade thrilling crowds across Australia with jaw-dropping feats of engineering and adrenaline.

**Andrew & Christian Howard** - Fourth-generation pyrotechnicians Andrew and Christian Howard are renowned worldwide for pioneering close-proximity effects and award-winning pyromusicals through Howard & Sons Pyrotechnics. The Howard brothers have produced show-stoppers from the Sydney Harbour Bridge opening to Olympic ceremonies and global New Year's Eve celebrations.

**Stuart Bensley** - With more than 20 years of global experience, Stuart Bensley is Howard & Sons Pyrotechnics' go-to expert. As a Designer, Choreographer, Programmer and Master Pyrotechnician, Stuart's work extends across the globe, earning him six prestigious awards at international competitions, including first place at the Malaysian International Fireworks Competition and multiple medals for best soundtrack design at Montreal's International Fireworks Competition.

**Ash Neuendorf** - From blockbuster concerts to immersive festival experiences, Ash Neuendorf is the Founder and Director of High Impact Lighting. Based in Brisbane, Ash has spent over a decade transforming the live entertainment landscape, lighting up major productions like Frozen, Hamilton, The Lion King, A Christmas Carol and Cirque du Soleil. His work has also powered large-scale events including Vivid Sydney, Pixar Putt, the Australian Open, and tours for P!nk and Sam Smith.



### **Wild West Karaoke Night (18+)**

**WHEN: Sunday 10 August, 8.30pm**

Dust off your boots and warm up those vocal cords - it's time for Wild West Karaoke Night at Stockys!

Take the stage with our live band and belt out your favourite country anthems in true outlaw style.

With songs soaring and the crowd cheering you on, it's a saloon-style karaoke night you won't want to miss.

### **Single Mingle Monday (18+)**

**WHEN: Monday 11 August, 7pm**

Step into a world where comedy meets Cupid and country beats fuel the chemistry!

Singles Mingle Monday hosted by the Sit Down Comedy Club is flipping the script on dating with a wildly entertaining mix of laughter, live music, dancing, and a whole lot of heart.

Quick-witted comedians and hosts Emma Zammit and Peter James will ensure this isn't your average night out. It's part stand-up show, part dating spectacle – where brave singles are pulled from the crowd for onstage blind dates, complete with cheeky questions, hilarious twists, and an audience full of cheerleaders.

Whether you're hitting the dancefloor or soaking up the chaos from the sidelines, Singles Mingle Monday is the ultimate feel-good experience. It's bold, it's unpredictable – and who knows? Your next big laugh might just lead to your next big love.



### **Drag Queen Bingo (18+)**

**WHEN: Thursday 14 August, 8.30pm**

Get ready for a night of glitz, glamour and outrageous fun as Drag Queen Bingo takes over XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill for one night only!

Hosted by the sensational showgirl Volllie LaVont, this unforgettable evening features dazzling performances, fierce fashions and high-energy lip-syncing to your favourite Rocky Horror Show tunes.

Think feather boas, sky-high heels, big hair and even bigger laughs - this is one fabulously fun night you won't want to miss.

