

COMPETITIONS



Apiculture

WHERE: Agricultural Education Hall

The Agricultural Education Hall will be abuzz with activity as the Apiculture Competition entries are showcased during Ekka. The competition received **280+ entries**, including extracted honey, native honey, pollen, comb honey, beeswax and mead. Each entry is judged on its aroma, colour, flavour, density, clearness, brightness and finish. Young beekeepers have also taken part, with the Junior Beekeeper Liquid Honey class for those under 18 years of age. Judging of the Apiculture Competition will take place ahead of the Show on Saturday 2 August at 10am in the Royal International Convention Centre.

Jamie Grant (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0409 207 105

Arts and Cookery

WHERE: Channel 7 Pavilion (level one)

The Arts and Cookery competitions continue to be a crowd favourite, attracting more than **4,760+ entries** in 2025 across eight sections: Cake Decorating, Cookery, Creative Art & Craft, Natural Fibres Make & Model, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Sculpture, and Wearable Art. Entries are displayed on level one of the Channel Seven Pavilion during Show. This year, the Cookery Competition includes new classes such as Jellies – Any Variety, Student Relish, and Pickled Vegetables or Fruit. These additions are expected to inspire even more creativity from home cooks of all ages. Queensland in a Jar returns in 2025 with a new theme. Presented in partnership with ABC Radio Brisbane, the competition invites entrants to create a preserve – relish, chutney or jam – made from a key ingredient grown in Queensland. Cake Decorating welcomes a fresh challenge this year with the new Nursery Rhyme theme. Entrants will decorate a cake to reflect a nursery rhyme of their choice, offering a delightful mix of storytelling and sugar art. In Creative Art and Craft, new classes include Crocheted Toy or Doll – Other, Needle Felting, and Painted Model Figure, expanding the competition to reflect the growing diversity of handmade art. Natural Fibres Make & Model introduces exciting new themes in 2025 including Rockabilly and Australian Country & Western. These creative themes give designers the opportunity to explore retro influences and rural inspiration through sustainable fashion design. In Painting and Drawing, there is a new and exciting Grand Champion Exhibit Prize.

Judging Highlights	Date	Time	Location
Future Directions Feature Class – Rocky Road with a Twist	Saturday 9 August	10am	Royal Queensland Cooking Stage, Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion
Natural Fibres Make & Model and Wearable Art Parade	Saturday 9 August	3pm	Channel Seven Pavilion, Main Stage
Queensland in a Jar – preserve celebrating Qld produce	Monday 11 August	1.30pm	ABC Broadcast Tent, Ground Floor, Royal International Convention Centre
Queensland's Best Dark Rich Fruit Cake (Queensland Ag Shows)	Tuesday 12 August	3pm	Royal Queensland Cooking Stage, Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion

Wally Boydell (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0407 728 522

Anna Marsden (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0414 407 162

Australian Young Farmer Challenge presented by Dairy Farmers

WHERE: Main Arena

Watch the next generation of agricultural talent take centre stage in this high-energy, hands-on competition led by the RNA Future Directions Committee. The Australian Young Farmer Challenge presented by Dairy Farmers returns with eight teams of four (aged 18 to 35) tackling a series of practical farm-inspired tasks in a fast-paced relay format. From building cattle enclosures and treating mock snake bites to rolling out swags and wrangling hay bales, the action unfolds in the Main Arena on Sunday 10 August from 4.30pm.



Beef Cattle

WHERE: Main Arena

The Ekka's beef cattle program remains one of the largest and most prestigious in the country, showcasing **1,380+ head of cattle** across the Stud Beef and Led Steer competitions. The

Stud Beef Competition, the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere, returns to the Main Arena on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 August as part of Ekka Beef Week. This year, Speckle Park takes centre stage as the feature breed, bringing even more excitement to the judging ring. The Led Steer Competition will see Junior classes on Tuesday 5 August and the Open classes on Wednesday 6 August. Exhibitors will celebrate the very best in beef at the Ekka Premier Beef Presentation, held on Friday 8 August at 6pm in the XXXX Stockmen's Bar and Grill.

For a full schedule of beef judging highlights, please see page 122.

Gary Noller (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T: 0408 700 949

Bush Poetry

WHERE: Stockman's Rest (and virtually)

Bush poetry will once again echo through Stockman's Rest at the Ekka, as talented performers bring the art of the Aussie ballad to life. On Sunday 10 August from 9am, a line-up of both seasoned and student poets will deliver powerful renditions - many themed around the new 'hat' theme. The competition has this year attracted **70+ entries**, including students, highlighting how bush poetry is helping to build creativity and confidence in classrooms. For those unable to attend in person, a virtual competition is judged in the lead-up to Show on Wednesday 16 July, with videos submitted from right across Queensland and New South Wales.

David Fagan (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0413 080 931



Canine Competition presented by Sushi Hub

WHERE: Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion and Stockman's Rest

More than 1,500 dogs representing around 180 breeds will take to the ring over nine days in one of Ekka's most popular competitions. From toys to working dogs, terriers to hounds, this diverse lineup will be judged by experts from China, Hungary, Portugal, the United States and Australia - bringing international expertise to the ring. The action extends to Stockman's Rest with the Canine Obedience (Saturday 9 August, 10am), and Agility, Jumping (Monday 11 August, 10am) and Scent Work Trials (Wednesday 13 August, 10am). The Canine Competition highlight is the highly anticipated Best in Show judging on Saturday 16 August at 2pm in the Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion, before the competition finishes with Rally, Dances with Dogs and Trick Dog on Sunday 17 August from 10am.

Lionel Blumel (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0419 798 779

Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub

WHERE: Sushi Hub Cat Precinct

From fluffy Persians to sleek Siamese, **130 cats** across 24 breeds will pounce into the spotlight at this year's Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub. Judging begins on Saturday 9 August and continues through to Wednesday 13 August, with expert judges from the United States and Hong Kong assessing kittens, longhairs, shorthairs and companion cats. The popular Pat-a-Cat and Cat Breed Showcase supported by Plush Puppy returns from Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 August, featuring informative displays and scheduled breed talks at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm. Visitors can also enjoy the much-loved 'Pat a Cat' sessions - an interactive opportunity to meet and learn about the breeds up close. The Cat Competition wraps up on Sunday 17 August with the judging of desexed cats and the dedicated Kitten Show, giving feline fans one last chance to catch these purr-fect pets in action.

Lionel Blumel (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0419 798 779



Dairy Cattle Competition presented by Aussie Helpers

WHERE: Large Animal Pavilion (Level 1) and Main Arena

Australia's top dairy exhibitors will compete for a share of \$32,000 in prize money in this year's Dairy Cattle Competition presented by Aussie Helpers, showcasing the milk quality, conformation and production potential of their animals. Cattle will be housed on Level 1 of the Large Animal Pavilion, with judging held both in the pavilion ring and on the Main Arena. The competition runs from Wednesday 13 to Friday 15 August with **180+ entries** received. Highlights include the All Breeds Youth Show at 2:30pm on Wednesday and the crowning of the Supreme Dairy Cow on Friday 16 August from 2:30pm in the Main Arena. New for 2025, Guernsey, Ayrshire and Brown Swiss cattle will be judged under a 'Combined Breeds' category, while Illawarra, Jersey and Holstein classes remain separate. There is also a new Dairy Cattle Exercise Area where visitors can chat with the exhibitors to learn more about the dairy industry - more information on page 29.

For a full schedule of dairy cattle judging highlights, please see page 121.

Kerri Robertson (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0407 651 022

Dairy Goats

WHERE: Large Animal Pavilion – level 1

One of Queensland's largest annual gatherings of dairy goats returns to the Ekka, with judging now taking place across two days - Friday 15 and Saturday 16 August. Eight popular breeds including Anglo-Nubian, Australian Melaan/Australian Brown, British Alpine, Lamancha, Nigerian Dwarf, Saanen and Toggenburg will be joined by entries in a newly introduced 'All Other Breeds' class. This addition allows dairy goats of unlisted breeds, registered with the Dairy Goat Society of Australia, to compete in both in-milk and dry classes. **More than 145 entries** have been received this year, with judging focusing on physical characteristics and milk production potential. Highlights include the Junior Handlers Competition at 11am on Friday and the prestigious Supreme Champion Dairy Doe of Show title awarded on Saturday 16 August.

Kerri Robertson (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0407 651 022



Education on Show

WHERE: Channel 7 Pavilion

Education on Show is evolving in 2025 with the exciting introduction of two new Minecraft Education classes presented by Norco Minecraft flavoured milk. For the first time, students will step into the digital paddock, using Minecraft to showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills while exploring agricultural themes. Entries will be judged on both functionality and imagination, with projects ranging from carved pumpkins to collaborative urban farm designs aimed at feeding patients at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. This year's theme, 'Feeding the Future', invites students to delve into the world of agriculture and explore the science and innovation shaping our food systems. Hundreds of entries have been received from Queensland students from Prep to Year 6. The competition spans 15 curriculum-aligned classes, from poetry and posters to murals and Minecraft builds. Judging takes place on Wednesday 30 July, with the prestigious Champion School of Show awarded to the school with the highest aggregate score across all classes. Entries will be on display in the Channel 7 Pavilion across the nine days of Show.

David Fagan (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0413 080 931

Ekka Creative Clips

WHERE: Throughout the grounds

Aspiring young filmmakers from Years 5 to 12 will put their creative skills to the test in the Ekka Creative Clips Competition.

During their school excursion to the Show, students will film, produce and edit a short, ad-style video that captures the spirit of Ekka. **More than 45 entries** will be judged post-Show, with winners announced on Monday 15 September. The winning films will be shared with Ekka's audience of over 200,000 social media followers, giving students an incredible platform to showcase their work.



Farriers and Blacksmiths

WHERE: Stockman's Rest

The largest farriers and blacksmiths competition in the southern hemisphere takes place at the Ekka, with **380+ entries** this year. Judging will take place from Thursday 14 to Sunday 17 August at Stockman's Rest. The competition features a range of classes from blacksmithing to forging and shoeing for horses – catering to all skill levels including Junior Novice and Masters 50 Years and Over. A highlight is the Decorative Blacksmithing class on Thursday at 12pm, where exhibitors have one hour to craft a functional item that showcases artistic flair.

Ian Ferguson (Ring Master and Councillor in charge)

T 0410 319 449

Fish

WHERE: Agricultural Education Hall

The Fish Competition (formerly known as Pisciculture) showcases a wide variety of aquatic life including common goldfish, cichlids, exotic tropical and freshwater fish, crustaceans, amphibians and aquatic plants. Judging will take place on Thursday 7 August from 2pm, with all **90+ entries** displayed in the Agricultural Education Hall over the nine days of Show. A highlight of the competition is the Nano Tank class, where exhibitors design and construct their tanks live at the Ekka. Judging for this class will be held on Saturday 9 August at 3pm.

Don Chandler (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0407 110 320

Fleece Breeds

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

The Fleece Breeds competitions continue to shine a spotlight on Queensland's fleece and wool industries, with **280+ entries**. In the Wool competition, judges will critique fleece for weight, fineness, length consistency, colour, lustre, and feel. Wool judging takes place in the Agricultural Education Hall on Thursday 7 August at 1pm and Ekka visitors can admire the prize-winning fleeces on display throughout the nine-day Show. The Sheep Competition runs from Wednesday 13 to Saturday

16 August in the Large Animal Pavilion, featuring the much-loved school competition classes on Friday 15 August at 8am and culminating in the prestigious Champion of Champions judging on Saturday 16 August at 11:30am. Prime Lambs supported by Carey Bros. Abattoir. will be judged off-site at Carey Bros Abattoir on Thursday 7 August, with the awards presentation and carcass auction taking place in the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion on Saturday 9 August from 11am. Award-winning carcasses will be displayed for public viewing in the pavilion on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 August.

William Roberts (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0428 722 535

Flower and Garden

WHERE: Agricultural Education Hall

The Flower and Garden competitions are blooming bright with **170+ entries** received. This year's Floristry Competition includes two quirky classes - Flowers for Cows and Flower Beards. In Flowers for Cows, florists will craft elaborate floral garlands suitable to be placed on a cow's head live onstage on Saturday 9 August from 12.20pm. The fun continues with Flower Beards, where entrants will decorate real beards in front of a live audience on Wednesday 13 August at 11.30am, with the final looks on display in the Grand Parade. Hosted by ABC's Gardening Australia star Costa Georgiadis and floral designer Julia Rose, this high-energy competition will see blooms take centre stage in the most unexpected way. The Horticultural Display competition will once again transform the precinct into a lush paradise, with stunning garden installations from clubs, associations and community groups on display during the nine days of Show. The precinct will also host three popular school competitions supported by Brunnings. Little Sprouts invites Prep to Year 1 students to grow their own biodegradable Ekka-pillar grass caterpillar, while the School Garden Competition sees students from Prep to Year 6 create their own mini farms - complete with pretend crops and animals. This year's School Scarecrow Competition celebrates the sporting legacy of the Brisbane Showgrounds, with students creating scarecrows inspired by athletes or iconic sporting moments. The winning scarecrow will even stand guard at Government House! The school competitions will be judged outside of Show on Friday 8 August at 4pm.

Robin McLay (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0419 797 377



G.O.A.T. Competition

WHERE: Agricultural Education Hall

The G.O.A.T. (Greatest Of All Time) Competition is a fun and interactive way for students to learn about red meat production through curriculum-linked resources. Hosted at the MLA Stand,

this colourful competition invites students to explore sustainable farming by designing vibrant artworks based on 'A Goat's Tale: Four Seasons of Farming.' **Twenty eye-catching fibreglass goats** painted by students will be on display over the nine days of Show, each telling a unique story about livestock, sustainability and the seasons. It's a lively and educational display that shows learning really can be the Greatest Of All Time!

David Fagan (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0413 080 931

Greenhouse Innovator

WHERE: Agricultural Education Hall

Explore how technology is shaping the future of farming at the Greenhouse Innovator Competition. Students in Years 7 to 10 and 12 became young scientists, using greenhouse kits to track plant growth and analyse real data. Their findings were brought to life through creative posters and videos, which will be on display over the nine days of Show. It's a brilliant showcase of science, sustainability and student-led discovery in action.



Horses

WHERE: Main Arena and XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

The Ekka's horse competitions are an impressive showcase of equestrian excellence, showjumping thrills, breed diversity and fashionable flair. In the Horse Competition, more than 15 breeds will be on display across **1,570+ entries** from petite Shetland Ponies to towering Clydesdales. Judging will take place from Monday 11 to Sunday 17 August on the Main Arena. New this year are two Equestrian Fancy Dress classes, to be judged Friday 15 August at 5.30pm with \$1,200 in prizemoney up for grabs. In Showjumping, 310+ entries have been received, with the Open Showjumping Showcases presented by Queensland Off-The-Track (QOTT) returning with an impressive \$75,000 prize pool. Thanks to QOTT's generous support, \$50,000 is on offer in the 120cm class (Monday 11 August at 4pm) and \$25,000 in the 105cm class (Sunday 10 August at 2pm). These showcase events celebrate the versatility of retired racehorses and promote life after racing opportunities in the showjumping arena. The much-anticipated Thoroughbred and Standardbred Day will take place on Monday 11 August, celebrating two of the most versatile racing breeds in a race day-style event. Adding extra flair to the day, the Fashions on the Field Competition presented by Brisbane Racing Club will be held at XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill (more information on page 37).

For a full schedule of horse judging highlights, please see page 126.

Ian Ferguson (Ring Master and Councillor in charge)

T 0410 319 449



Paddock to Palate Competition presented by JBS

WHERE: Off-site and Channel 7 Pavilion

Offering almost \$55,000 in prize money, this year's Paddock to Palate Competition presented by JBS has attracted **1,085 head of cattle** - a remarkable 35 per cent increase on 2024. Now in its 28th year, the competition is one of the most commercially relevant of its kind in the world, with cutting edge data collection technology giving producers the chance to benchmark their cattle. Classes 37, 38 and 40 follow a three-phase format, assessing aggregate weight gain, carcass quality and MSA eating quality. The Wagyu Challenge (Class 39) adds a fourth phase — a beef taste-off judged by some of Queensland's top chefs. Exhibitors with the highest combined scores across all phases will be awarded overall honours at the Paddock to Palate and Beef Industry Dinner presented by JBS Australia, held at the Brisbane Showgrounds on Thursday 7 August at 6pm.

Gary Noller (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0408 700 949

Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs

WHERE: Large Animal Pavilion (ground floor)

A vibrant variety of birds from colourful parrots and racing pigeons to turkeys and geese, will take centre stage in this year's Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs Competition with **1,930+ entries** received. Egg entries alone are up an incredible 50 per cent on last year, with over 110 received, highlighting the growing interest in this competition. The 2025 feature breed is the striking Modern Game - a tall, upright bird known for its elegant appearance, fine bone structure and alert personality. There are also new Champion trophies memorialising poultry legends. In the egg section, classes range from backyard and school entries to junior/youth and the new commercial class, offering a fun and educational experience for all ages. Judging for Poultry, Pigeons, Birds and Eggs will take place on Friday 8 August at 8.30am, with the awards presentation to follow on Saturday 9 August at 10am in the Large Animal Pavilion.

Don Chandler (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0407 110 320



Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards

WHERE: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage

Eleven inspiring young women from across Queensland - each with a passion for community and agriculture - will take to the stage to compete in the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards State Finals. Cheer on these outstanding regional representatives as they showcase their leadership on Saturday 9 August at 2.30pm on the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage.

Paige Caldwell

T 0487 598 644

Queensland Rural Ambassador Awards

Where: Multicultural Plaza Music Stage

Eleven accomplished Rural Ambassadors - each a winner at their local agricultural show and passionate about Queensland's rural industries - will vie for the title of Queensland Rural Ambassador State Winner. Celebrate the future of our rural leadership at the State Finals presentation on Sunday 10 August at 11.15am.

Carol Cahill - Queensland Ag Shows

T 07 3277 7747

Quilts Across Queensland presented by Pillow Talk

WHERE: Channel 7 Pavilion

The Quilts Across Queensland Competition has been a beloved Ekka tradition for more than two decades, showcasing stunning craftsmanship in the Channel 7 Pavilion across all nine days of Show. Judging of the **130+ entries** will take place on Sunday 27 July from 9am. Must-see entries include the intricate Pictorial Art Quilt category which depicts a person, place or object, and the Junior Section for talented quilters under 18. Awards include Best of Show, Best Use of Colour, Hangers' Choice, and the always popular Viewer's Choice.

Anna Marsden (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0414 407 162



Raising Hy-line Hens

WHERE: Large Animal Pavilion (ground floor)

In the Raising Hy-Line Hens competition, students from **16 schools** collected their hens in March and will now showcase their skills at the Ekka - proving they've raised healthy, productive birds in time for the Show. Schools will be judged on their three best birds, the quantity and quality of eggs collected, and a project detailing their rearing process. Judging takes place in the Large Animal Pavilion on Saturday 16 August at 10am.

Don Chandler (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0407 110 320



Sheepdog Trials

WHERE: Main Arena

The first Sheepdog Trial at the Show dates back to 1899 and the tradition continues in 2025. This iconic competition showcases the remarkable bond between handler and dog, with trials judged on cast, approach, bridging, obstacle and overall control. **Seven skilled dogs** will take to the Main Arena on Sunday 10 August from 10am, with the finals to follow from 12pm.

Ian Ferguson (Ring Master and Councillor in Charge)

T 0410 319 449



Woodchop and Sawing

WHERE: Ekka Woodchop Arena presented by AAM Investment Group

With a prize pool of over \$143,000, the Woodchop and Sawing Competition will see Australia's best axemen and women battle it out over eight action-packed days from 9 to 16 August. More than **1,600+ entries** have been received across underhand, standing block, treefelling, sawing, team relays and combination events. Competitors will vie for eight national titles including the prestigious Open 325mm Standing Block Championship of Australia (Friday 15 August, 3.35pm), Jack and Jill 375mm Double Handed Sawing Championship of Australia (Saturday 9 August, 3.15pm), and the Open 300mm Standing Block Hard Hitting Championship where the number of hits, not time, determines the winner (Friday 15 August, 4.45pm). Don't miss the rising stars in the Under 13's Invitational 250mm Underhand final on Sunday 10 August at 1.15pm. The Woodchop and Sawing Competition has been held at the Ekka for more than a century, making the AAM Woodchop Arena the place where tradition meets thrilling, timber-splitting action.

John Cotter (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0418 466 8901



Young Judges presented by Queensland Government

WHERE: Several locations around grounds

The Young Judges Competition gives the next generation of show judges a chance to step into the spotlight and put their judging skills to the test. With 13 sections including stud beef, wool and cake decorating, the competition is open to young people aged 25 and under, with Junior (under 15) and Senior (15–25) classes. Judging takes place across several days of the Ekka, offering young talent the opportunity to gain experience and showcase their knowledge in a live show environment. Entries are accepted until close to judging day.

Judging Highlights	Date	Time	Location
Stud Beef	Thursday 7 August	8am	Main Arena
Fruits and Vegetables	Friday 8 August	3pm	Agricultural Education Hall
Cake Decorating	Tuesday 12 August	9am	Channel 7 Pavilion
Wool	Wednesday 13 August	10.30am	Large Animal Pavilion

Gary Noller (RNA Councillor in Charge)

T 0408 700 949

Youth in Agriculture

WHERE: Agricultural Education Hall

Bursting with colour and creativity, the Youth in Agriculture Competition will once again see schools take centre stage in the Agricultural Education Hall. This year, **four schools** will build eye-catching produce displays themed 'Australia', showcasing everything from vibrant fruit and vegetables to grains and grasses. Displays will be constructed from Friday 1 August, with the winners crowned at the awards presentation on Saturday 9 August at 9am. The prized produce will be sold to Ekka visitors at bargain prices on the final day of Show, Sunday 17 August from 3pm.

Judges and Stewards

The Ekka's judges and stewards are the backbone of the Show's prestigious competitions. This year, more than 730 judges and stewards will lend their time and expertise across 46 competition sections. Their dedication ensures the Ekka delivers world-class judging standards and helps shine a spotlight on the skill, passion and hard work of our exhibitors.