

August 7, 2026

It's an Ekka-versary! Queensland's greatest show celebrates 150 years

The unmistakable excitement of Ekka returns tomorrow (8 August) as the gates open for the 150th Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) presented by Bank of Queensland (BOQ), marking the start of nine days of celebration, agriculture, entertainment and community spirit.

To celebrate the final countdown, Ekka tickets have been discounted by 20% until 10pm tonight (Friday 7 August). Simply subscribe to the Ekka website www.ekka.com.au to save.

For a century and a half, the Ekka has brought together the best of Queensland – from the country to the city – celebrating world-class agriculture, produce, innovation, entertainment, and animals, while creating cherished memories for generations of families.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said this year's 150th anniversary promises to be one of the most memorable in Ekka's history, with a spectacular program of events honouring the rich traditions that have shaped generations.

"The Ekka is proudly revered for bringing the country to the city each year and forms a rich part of Queensland's social and cultural heritage," Mr Christou said.

"This year's Show honours that rich legacy while embracing the future, delivering a program that is engaging, accessible, and value driven.

"Alongside commemorative events that highlight Queenslanders' connections to the show, the 150th anniversary program is built around affordability, with more than 110 food vendors offering \$10-and-under menu items and family meal bundles for four, available from \$25," he said.

The popular daily two-for-one rides session returns from 9.30–10.30am in B105 Sideshow Alley, Kids Carnival and the new Machinery Hill Kids Zone, the Ekka Fun Pass App helps visitors skip ticket booths and access bonus ride credit, while the Back for More Pass, gives patrons the opportunity to return for a second day for just \$23.

In this special anniversary year, new shows and international acts will bring high-adrenaline moments and heart-warming performances to the Showgrounds and Main Arena.

This includes the legendary Human Cannonball Dave "The Bullet" Smith, Heart of the Land: Celebrating 150 years of Queensland Farming Spirit, Human Marvels Side Show Circus, Threads of Time: Celebrating 150 Years of Fashion, and the all-new EkkaNITES Fireworks Spectacular.

Interactive and educational experiences are also a key feature of the 150th celebrations, including the new Butter Barn presented by Norco, the expanded Strawberry Sundae Lane exhibit and Ekka Learning Trail, and the Goat Shed: A Farm Experience.

Meanwhile, Ekka patrons will enjoy seeing thousands of entries in 59 Competitions, from stud beef, woodchopping, and equestrian to dogs, cats, and cookery – showcasing the very best of Queensland talent, agriculture, and animals.

Mr Christou said around 400,000 people were expected to flock to this year's Ekka to celebrate its remarkable 150th milestone.

"The Ekka is an incredible Queensland institution and the 150th anniversary is a chance to honour what makes the Show truly unique. We can't wait to welcome visitors through the gates tomorrow to enjoy celebrating 150 years with us," he said.

Tickets for the 2026 Royal Queensland Show presented by BOQ are available online at www.ekka.com.au

Day 1: TOMORROW - Saturday 8 August – HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA DOORSTOP:

11.45am - with RNA President David Thomas on Heritage Hill overlooking the Main Arena.

JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS (times subject to change):

- From 8.30am – Stud Beef Cattle judging in the Main Arena, including Parade of Champions from 2pm followed by the Santos Champion of Champions judging
- From 8.30am – Dog Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Utility Dogs in Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion and Obedience classes from 9.30am at Stockman's Rest
- From 9am – Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Longhair Kittens & Companions – Sushi Hub Cat Precinct
- From 3.30pm – Natural Fibres Make & Model Competition Parade, Main Stage, 7NEWS Community Pavilion
- 10am – 2pm – Fish Judging (Nano Tank), Agricultural Education Hall
- From 9am – Woodchop and Sawing – Including Jill & Jill 375mm Double Handed Sawing Royal Queensland Show Championship at 12.42pm, Junior 250mm Underhand Royal Queensland Show Championship at 3.36pm, Jack & Jill 375mm Double Handed Sawing Championship of Australia at 3.48pm, and Veterans 275mm Underhand Handicap for 60 years + at 4.12pm, Woodchop Arena presented by AAM
- 10am – 10.45am – Arts & Cookery – Live judging of the Future Directions Feature Class (Rocky Road with a Twist), Royal Queensland Cooking Stage, Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion

EKKA'S OPENING DAY STREET PARADE

When: Commencing at Gate 1 on Gregory Terrace from 8.30am

Bring the whole family and line the streets for the official opening of the Ekka with a spectacular Opening Day Street Parade. This colourful, high-energy procession is your chance to get up close to all your favourite acts and attractions before the gates even open. Expect a parade bursting with excitement, including:

- Animals galore - horses, ponies, chickens, reptiles and more
- Hot Wheels, Aussie FMX, and Flair Riders
- Marching bands and dance groups
- Competition entrants such as Miss Showgirl and woodchoppers
- Ekka's Farmyard Friends
- Giant inflatables including a strawberry sundae, Milo the Sheep Dog, and Barry the Bull.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPION BULL ON SHOW

When: All-day Judging and Parade of Champions, Main Arena

Judging continues at Australia's largest annual cattle competition on Saturday. Close to 1,500 head of cattle have been paraded, judged and displayed across the stud beef and led steer sections during the week. Tomorrow (8 August) enjoy watching judging all day and the Parade of Champions from 2pm, followed by the Santos Champion of Champions judging.

GRIP. GRIT. GLORY – THE ULTIMATE ARMWRESTLING SHOWDOWN

When: 10am – 6pm, XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

Witness raw strength and fierce determination as more than 80 men and women go head-to-head in the Australian Armwrestling Federation Queensland Championships. Celebrating its 10th year at the Ekka, this high-intensity showdown features lightweight, middleweight, and heavyweight classes in a double elimination format, where every match counts. From world title contenders to husbands and wives squaring off, it's a battle of the biceps like no other!

PAW-SITIVELY THE BEST: TOP DOGS TAKE CENTRE-STAGE

When: From 8.30am, Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion

Whether you're a lifelong dog lover or simply enjoy seeing four-legged stars in action, don't miss the Utility Dog and Obedience judging at Ekka. The Dog Competition presented by Sushi Hub is one of the largest and most popular events at Ekka, attracting more than 2,000 dogs representing 180 breeds. With judges flying in from around the world and everyone's favourite breeds on display, the event is sure to be a crowd winner. Utility Dog breeds including Boxer, Newfoundland, Schnauzer, Siberian Husky, and St Bernards will be judged tomorrow. Plus, Obedience classes will be judged at Stockman's Rest from 9.30am.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

When: From 5.30pm, Main Arena

In its 150th year, the Ekka's Official Opening Ceremony, held on the first day of Show to welcome guests from across Queensland, is one special event not to be missed. Rich in heritage and tradition, the ceremony features a Welcome to Country, the Blessing of the Plough, performances by the Australian Army Band Brisbane, a display by the Queensland Mounted Police, and more. The 2026 Ekka will be officially opened by the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland.

HUMAN CANNONBALL DAVE "THE BULLET" SMITH BLASTS INTO BRISBANE

When: EkkaNITES, Main Arena

Prepare for a jaw-dropping, world-class spectacle as human cannonball legend David "The Bullet" Smith blasts into Brisbane from the USA. Continuing a legendary family tradition of daredevil aerial performance, David "The Bullet" Smith holds multiple Guinness World Records for distance and height in human cannonballing. At EkkaNITES, audiences will witness a heart-stopping performance as Smith is launched from a custom-built cannon, soaring high above the arena before landing with pinpoint accuracy. Each launch delivers an explosive moment of suspense, speed and raw human courage, making it one of the most anticipated highlights of the night program.

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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And don't forget to download the Ekka App.



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