

August 8, 2026

Thanks Queensland for an Ekka-tastic opening day!

The 150th Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) presented by the Bank of Queensland (BOQ) burst into life today, launching with unforgettable moments across the show ring and Main Arena, a vibrant opening day street parade, and all the excitement of B105 Sideshow Alley, Kids Carnival and Machinery Hill Kids Zone.

Opening day delivered a stellar line-up of highlights, from blue-ribbon dogs and cats to Australia's finest stud beef cattle in the Parade of Champions, plus the nation's strongest arm wrestlers also battling it out for glory—setting the scene for an unforgettable Ekka week. From much-loved animals and fabulous food to exhilarating entertainment, Ekka visitors can look forward to another action-packed day tomorrow as the Show moves into its first full weekend.

By tonight, more than 40,000 people will have passed through the gates, with the 150th Ekka set to roll into a Super Sunday packed with colour, crowds and country spirit.

Day 2: Sunday 9 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 8.15am – Sheep Dog Trial heats, with the final from 11am – 11.45am, Main Arena
- From 8.30am – Dog Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Toy Group Judging in Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion
- 12pm – 2pm – Dog Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Racing Queensland Greyhound Sweepstakes, in Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion
- From 1.30pm – Horse Competition – Clydesdale (Working, Led and Under Saddle – Ring 1) and Riders with Disabilities (Ring 3), Main Arena
- From 9am – Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Shorthair Kittens – Sushi Hub Cat Precinct
- From 9am – Bush Poetry Judging, Stockman's Rest
- From 9.30am – Woodchop and Sawing – Including Under 13's Invitational 250mm Underhand at 1.15pm, Junior 250mm Standing Block Royal Queensland Show Championship at 3.36pm, Women's 275mm Underhand Championship of Australia at 4pm, Woodchop Arena presented by AAM

SHEEP THRILLS AND HERDING SKILLS

When: From 8.15am, Main Arena

The first Sheepdog Trial at the Show dates back to 1899 and the tradition continues in 2026. This iconic competition showcases the remarkable bond between handler and dog, with trials judged on cast, approach, bridging, obstacle and overall control. 10 skilled dogs will take to the Main Arena on Sunday from 9am, with the finals to follow from 12pm.

STRENGTH TAKES CENTRE-STAGE AT AUSTRALIAN STRONGMAN ALLIANCE INVITATIONAL

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

Get ready to be amazed as Australia's strongest men and women go head-to-head in the 2026 Australian Strongman Alliance Invitational. Presented by Valhalla Strength, some of Australia's elite strongmen and strongwomen will compete in a series of brutal strength challenges designed to test power, endurance, and mental grit. Fans can expect massive lifts, crowd-roaring moments and jaw-dropping feats as competitors push themselves to the absolute limit.

TIMBER! THE AXE-CITEMENT STARTS HERE

When: Woodchop Arena presented by AAM

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. More than 1,523 entries have been received across underhand, standing block, treefelling, sawing, team relays and combination events. Today, catch the rising stars in the Under 13's Invitational 250mm Underhand final at 1.15pm and Junior 250mm Standing Block Royal Queensland Show Championship at 3.36pm, plus the prestigious Women's 275mm Underhand Championship of Australia at 4pm.

BUSH BALLADS V's TALL TALES

WHERE: From 9am, Stockman's Rest Rotunda

Ekka's Bush poetry competition will once again celebrate the spirit, stories and characters of the Australian bush, as talented performers bring the art of the Aussie ballad to life. A line-up of both seasoned and student poets will deliver powerful renditions – many themed around the Ekka's 150th anniversary.

STATE AUSTRALIAN YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY DAIRY FARMERS

When: From 12.30pm, Main Arena

Watch the next generation of agricultural talent take centre stage in this high-energy, hands-on rural showdown led by the RNA Future Directions Committee. The State Australian Young Farmer Challenge presented by Dairy Farmers returns with four 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.

NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE POWERED BY OZTIX

When: From 4.30pm, Main Arena

Following the State event, the National Australian Young Farmer Challenge powered by OzTix will be held from 4.30pm in the Main Arena. The nation's top teams will go head-to-head to claim the title of Australian Young Farmer Challenge champions.

QUEENSLAND RURAL AMBASSADOR AWARDS

When: 11.15am, Plaza Music Stage

The Queensland Rural Ambassador Awards is Queensland's premier rural and agricultural leadership initiative for dynamic young men and women aged 20 to 30. 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.

HEART OF THE LAND – CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF QUEENSLAND FARMING SPIRIT

When: EkkaNITES, Main Arena

This year's night show will take audiences on a nostalgic journey through time, paying tribute to the generations of Queenslanders who built the state from its farming roots and the early days of cotton and sheep to the thriving beef industry that earned Queensland its proud title as 'The Beef Capital' of the nation.

Through stirring narration, a sweeping musical score, and breathtaking performances, *Heart of the Land* will honour the evolution of rural life and innovation that has driven the growth of Queensland's agricultural industries. Heart of the Land is brought to you by renowned horseman Dave Manchon and the Rooftop Express Riders.

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](#)

Don't forget to follow us on socials



And don't forget to download the Ekka App.



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