

August 14, 2026

Final weekend is going to be Ekka-cellent!

With just two days to go, now is the time to make the most of Ekka's huge 150th anniversary celebrations before the gates close for 2026.

Tomorrow the crowning of the Best in Show in Dogs, Champion of Champions in Sheep, and Supreme Dairy Doe take place, plus the finals in the Woodchop and Sawing competition.

We will also search for Queensland's next country music star in the Country Music Showdown which will see budding artists compete for more than \$70,000 in cash and prizes.

Meanwhile, sparks will fly in the Farriers and Blacksmith Competition and catch some of our youngest competitors (aged just 3 years) in the Horse arena.

By night's end around 45,000 people are expected to have passed through the gates at Ekka today.

Here's what 's in store at the 150th Ekka tomorrow:

Day 8: Saturday 15 August – HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA DOORSTOP – 11.15am tomorrow

RNA President David Thomas or Chief Executive Brendan Christou will be available on Heritage Hill overlooking the Main Arena.

JUDGING HIGHLIGHTS:

- From 8am – Farriers and Blacksmiths Competition – including Open Shoeing, Junior Novice Forging, Senior Novice Forging, and Intermediate Forging, Stockman's Rest
- From 8.30am – Horse Judging – Including Lead Rein Pony Class, Smartest on Parade, Rider Classes (from Tiny Tots to 8 years old), Arabian Derivative Classes, Main Arena
- From 8.30am – Dog Competition presented by Sushi Hub – Plush Puppy Sweepstakes and General Specials including: RNA Junior Handlers, Queensland Classic Final, Baby Puppy in Show, Puppy in Show, Neuter in Show, and Best in Show, in Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion
- From 9am – Dairy Goat Judging – Including Breed Champions and Supreme Champions of Senior Doe, Junior Doe and Dairy Doe of Show, Large Animal Pavilion (level 1)
- From 9am – Cat Competition presented by Sushi Hub – PAT-A-CAT All-Breed Showcase supported by Plush Puppy – Sushi Hub Cat Precinct
- From 9.30am – Showjumping Competition – Junior Jump Off Competition, Over Two Rounds and Open Six Bar, Main Arena
- From 9.30am – Woodchop and Sawing – Open 300mm Combination Handicap (Teams of Two) – Underhand and Standing (10.45am), Open 275mm Treefelling Handicap (11.30am), 300mm Underhand Elimination Championship, (3.30pm), open 275mm Standing Block Handicap (4.30pm),

Teams of Three Open 300mm Combination Relay Handicap (4.45pm), Woodchop Arena presented by AAM

- 10.30am – Sheep Competition – Supreme Class, Judging Ring, level 2, Large Animal Pavilion

TINIEST COMPETITORS SHINE BRIGHT

When: 9am, Main Arena

Pint-sized equestrians will delight Ekka visitors tomorrow as they take the reins in this year's Horse Competition. Watch competitors from as young as 3 years of age showcase their budding horse skills on the Main Arena. Lead Rein Pony Classes include 3 years and under 8 years of age, Smartest on Parade from under 6 years of age to under 12 years, and Junior Rider Classes (for Girl and Boy) from 3 years & under 5 years of age to 10 years & under 12 years of age.

PAWS FOR APPLAUSE – MEET THE BEST IN SHOW

When: 2pm, Sushi Hub Dog Pavilion

Tomorrow at 2pm, tension will be high as breeders from across the nation hold their breath in anticipation for the announcement of Ekka's 2026 Best in Show. This prestigious title means one exceptional canine has outshone every other dog at the Show, with the achievement recognised in canine circles throughout Australia.

LIVESTOCK ON PARADE

When: 12:30pm, Main Arena

Step into the heart of the country with Ekka's Livestock Parade. Held on the Ekka's busy, final weekend this parade will feature a myriad of animals including beef and dairy cattle, horses, goats, and sheep. It's a proud celebration of Queensland's livestock industry.

EKKA'S COUNTRY MUSIC SHOWDOWN HITS A HIGH NOTE

When: 11.15 to 1.15pm (Junior) & 4pm to 6pm (Open)

Now in its 12th year, the Ekka's Country Music Showdown brings together Queensland's best emerging talent in the ultimate search for the next country music star. Musicians will compete in front of Ekka crowds and a panel of industry judges, performing two songs each for the chance to win career-boosting prizes worth more than \$70,000.

This year's Showdown features a stellar line-up of 22 entrants across both the Open and Junior categories. New judge Kate Hathaway, an American music industry professional, will bring international expertise to this year's panel.

RAISING HY-LINE HENS PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIAN EGGS

When: Judging from 9.30am, Large Animal Pavilion (ground floor)

The Raising Hy-Line Hens competition presented by Australian Eggs, allows students to raise their own laying hens. Students from 22 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 at 9.30am.

EKKA'S A DANCIN'

When: 10am, 10.30am, 4.30pm daily, Main Stage

Celebrate an amazing array of talent at the inaugural Ekka Dance Eisteddfod, featuring top performers and standout routines from 24 Queensland dance schools and studios.

The competition celebrates entertainment, showmanship, and performance impact, rather than age based or technical competition. Dancers can perform across a variety of styles including jazz, contemporary, hip hop, lyrical and musical theatre. The winning school will take home the inaugural Ekka Dance Eisteddfod 2026 Trophy and earn the exciting opportunity to perform live at Dreamworld.

2026 TOYOTA STAR MAKER JARRAD WRIGLEY ROCKS EKKA

When: 8pm to late, XXXX Stockmen's Bar & Grill

Enjoy country artist Jarrad Wrigley at Ekka, when he performs songs that celebrate rural life with honesty, humour and heart. The 22-year-old sheep farmer from Stanthorpe grew up with a deep admiration of the land and developed a love for the stories and sounds of country music.

Jarrad's high-energy country twang and heartfelt ballads are helping him win audiences wherever he goes. After spending the last few years on stage, he won Ekka's 2025 Country Music Showdown Open Category and was recently crowned 46th Toyota Star Maker in Tamworth.

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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