

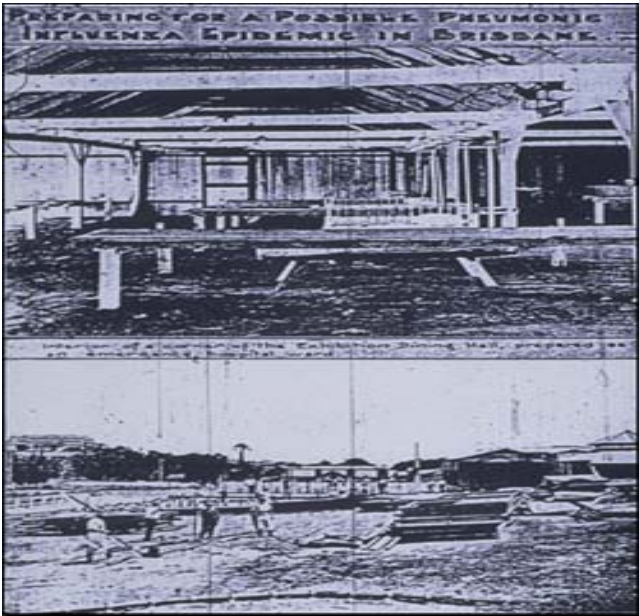



EKKA'S HISTORY

DATE	EVENT
1875	<p>"National Agricultural and Industrial Association of QLD" was formed by a group of colonists</p>
1876	<p>The first "Intercolonial Exhibition of 1876" was held at Bowen Park with more than 17 000 attendees (Brisbane's population 22,000) Admission: 5 shillings (50 cents) – Judging Day 2/6 (25 cents) – Opening Ceremony 1 shilling (10 cents) – After opening ceremony School students free</p> <p>John Phillips, the proprietor of the Royal Hotel, Queen Street, erected refreshment Rooms. This was a large timber and iron building. At this first show, there was a sample bag containing coal</p> <div data-bbox="528 692 1131 1010" data-label="Image"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">A view of the first exhibition held in August 1876 (Photo courtesy John Oxley Library JOL42351)</p>
1876	<p>The first exhibition building was erected</p> <div data-bbox="561 1178 1165 1574" data-label="Image"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">The first Exhibition Building erected in 1876 (from "Town And Country Journal 26 August 1876 p340")</p>
1878	<p>The showgrounds became the centre of social activities – musical and drama groups, football, cricket, lacrosse, athletics, cycling all had headquarters at the exhibition grounds</p>
1882	<p>First railway station opened at the showgrounds - as an extension of the Sandgate Line</p>
1887	<p>Main pavilion (corner of Bowen Bridge Road and Gregory Terrace) destroyed by fire</p>

1891	Main pavilion replaced with new brick building on the corner of Bowen Bridge Road and Gregory Terrace. It contains 1,300,000 bricks and was completed in 23 weeks. 300 men were constantly at work during its construction. The building was equipped with massive pipe organ by Wallis and Co of London.
1899	Main Pavilion handed to Government due to financial difficulties and used as Queensland museum and Queensland Art Gallery. It now houses the Youth Orchestra and other cultural groups
1903	<p>First Motor Car parade incorporated into show</p> 
1906	<p>John MacDonald stand built</p>  <p>Children admiring a prize winning horse 1906 (photo courtesy SLQ)</p>
1909	6 acres of land was bought off Mrs Petty (land bordered by Gregory Terrace, Alexandria Street, Science Street and Water Street)
1912	American aviator Arthur Burr Stone used the main oval to take off and land a Metz Bleriot Monoplane for the first flight over the Brisbane City

1919	<p>Show was cancelled due to the Spanish Influenza Epidemic. The grounds were turned into a hospital to accommodate patients</p>  <p>Photographs in 'The Queenslander' newspaper illustrate the preparations underway at the Exhibition Ground to establish temporary hospital wards for the care of Spanish flu sufferers. (Queenslander 1 March 1919 p25)</p>
1920	<p>Prince Edward visits and the prefix "Royal" was added to the association name after warrant from His Majesty King George V</p> <p>Number 2 oval was built</p>
1921	<p>First "Brisbane <u>Royal</u> Show" held</p>
1923	<p>Ernest Baynes Stand was built - 2 tiers, 7 000 person capacity including a 600 seat capacity dining room</p>
1928	<p>The first Australia v's England International Cricket Test Match played in Queensland on the main oval. Test debut by Sir Bradman – scored 18 and was dropped for the 2nd test</p> <p>First international Rugby League game held on main oval</p> <p>New dairy, sheep and wool pavilions built</p> <p>New turnstile entry gates built at Costin Street and Gregory Terrace</p>
1926	<p>National speedway opened at the grounds</p>
1936	<p>Night trotting started</p> <p>Sideshow byways concreted</p>
1939-1945	<p>World War II – the grounds became a training grounds and troop accommodation. The military would vacate the grounds each August for the show to go ahead</p>

1942	The show was cancelled due to war as the ground was used as a staging depot
1946	<p>Full recovery of the grounds from its role as a military staging depot, accommodation facility and hospital. Surplus military buildings were bought and became the Horticulture and Poultry pavilions.</p>  <p>This photo taken in 1946 shows the Ernest Baynes Stand to the left and John MacDonald Stand to the right lit up for the evening program (Photo courtesy John Oxley library JOL157540)</p>
1947	An Atomic Energy Commission Display was staged
1949	<p>Queensland Industries Fair which showcased the states industrial growth.</p> <p>Special display of the "Blue Baby" a DD17 Class Steam Locomotive.</p>
1954	Visit from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip
1964	Introduction of the now famous Animal Nursery
1970	Automatic chairlift opened
1971	RNA became a corporate body with legal identity of its own
1971	International Springbok Tour where a 2 metre chain wire fence was erected to separate the players from the spectators
1983	First Queensland show Girl Quest competition
1988	<p>Year of World Expo 88</p> <p>Ekka attendance was more than 800 000 – the highest attendance ever recorded</p>
1989	Introduction of the "Cotton Parades"

EKKA IN THE 21st CENTURY

- Committed to promoting and encouraging the development of the agricultural, pastoral, horticultural, industrial, manufacturing and cultural resources of the state of Queensland.
- Our vision is to provide a vibrant destination with leading educational and event facilities and activities that capture the hearts and minds of all Queenslanders from the country to the city.
- One of the 3 largest Agricultural shows in Australia with up to 600 000 visitors every year
- Over 5 000 different competitions to enter across 20 different sections.
- Over 27 000 exhibits entered
- Over 9 000 exhibitors
- Over 300 Judges and 450 Stewards
- More than 10 000 animal exhibits
- More than 100 sideshow attractions
- More than 300 showbags on offer
- Up to 50 fashion parades
- 10 live music bands
- Over 200 000 Nestle Peters Strawberry sundae ice-creams eaten
- Over 400 000 Dagwood Dogs eaten
- Thousands of cubic metres of manure collected and used to enrich the gardens at New Farm Park, Mount Cootha and Government House.