











SHOWBIZ

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE RNA

2015 SPECIAL EKKA

NEW FIREWORKS FINALE

AUSTRALIAN FIRST EkkaNITES

FASHION PARADES
TAKEN TO DAZZLING NEW HEIGHTS

Contents

















Welcome



For 138 years the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) has been bringing the country and city together to showcase and champion Australian agriculture. Queensland's largest and most loved annual event, the Ekka, will welcome more than 400,000 people through the gates to see the best of our state.

Last year the show ran over two full weekends giving visitors more opportunity than ever before to experience the show. This will continue again in 2015 from the 7-16 August.

This year's Ekka will provide great value for families with its ticket value packs, free activities and samples and cheap travel to the show.

Don't miss the never before seen world-class night show, EkkaNITES. The nightly show will include the traditional elements like the woodchop and also sheepdogs as well as the X-treme Action Show-featuring The Transformers, live music from country music legend James Blundell and the brand new spectacular fireworks finale.

Ekka guests will once again enjoy the state-of-the-art Royal International Convention Centre, which will be home to high end fashion, non-stop entertainment, the critically acclaimed Royal Queensland Steakhouse, the cat 'best in show' competition, the popular Fine Arts display and Queensland's best fruit and vegetable exhibits.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our hard working Ekka staff, stewards and judges, volunteers, sponsors and partners who all play an essential part in staging this iconic event.

I look forward to welcoming our RNA members, Ekka exhibitors, competitors, volunteers and visitors to this year's show. We hope you enjoy Ekka 2015.

Davies Thomas

David Thomas RNA President

Winter

Ekka Media Launch



The Ekka media launch gave its 250 guests a taste of what to expect come August 7.

From the FMX Freestyle Kings showing off their high flying stunts, champion woodchoppers competition in the treefell to Soul Mystique performing the magical art of quick change, guests were left in awe as they enjoyed the show.

Some of the state's finest produce, including gourmet beef rolls featuring the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show (RQFWS) Grand Champion AACo Wagyu and award-winning lamb, cheeses and wines were on offer

The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation specially whipped up sweet strawberry sundaes, a crowd favourite.

The media launch not only showcased the world-class entertainment and award-winning food in store for Ekka, but urged Queenslanders to come together at the show and recognise and champion the essential role agriculture plays in their everyday lives.

Grape Grazing

The Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show (RQFWS) held Grape Grazing by Night – Celebrating Australian Wine for the first time in July at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

Grape Grazing followed on from the Royal Queensland Wine Show's week long judging process, where more than 2000 wines were sniffed, swirled and tasted by experts. The impressive wine library was then opened up to the public.

From Shiraz to Semillon, more than 500 guests were able to taste award-winning Australian wines and the opportunity to meet winemakers and judges. Produce from the prestigious Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show was also on offer including gourmet beef rolls, lamb cutlets and gold-medal winning cheeses.



News in Brief

Exhibition Building gets a new coat of paint

It's known as the Woolworth's Fresh Food Pavilion during Ekka and takes pride of place at the entrance to the Brisbane Showgrounds on the corner of Costin Street and Gregory Terrace

The colour of the Exhibition Building has been the topic of much conversation over the years, but it now is sporting a fresh face with a new exterior colour – Harold (the darker colour) and Linseed (the lighter colour) both from Dulux paints.

This will allow it to blend in a little better with surrounding buildings and the new Rydges Hotel, which is currently being constructed on the corner of King Street and Gregory Terrace.

Rydges Hotel on track for 2016 Opening

The new four-star Rydges hotel is currently being constructed on the corner of Gregory Terrace and the newly created King Street. Ekka guests will notice the fast pace it's going up. The fit out has commenced on the lower floors and the structure will be completed by Ekka 2015. The hotel is on track for an early 2016 opening.

King Street Food Pop Up to become Permanent

With construction still underway in King Street and permanent food retailers still to come, the pop-up food market at Kings Gate was created to welcome Lendlease staff to their new headquarters and provide fresh, local food to those that work and live in the area. The Kings Gate pop up showcased some of Brisbane's best providores Lady Marmalade Café, Press'd, Local Mobile Deli and Wara Sushi.

The lunchtime market, which ran for six weeks, was such a success that Lendlease will install a permanent pop up in King Street called "Tucker Box" due to open in late September.



Pavilion

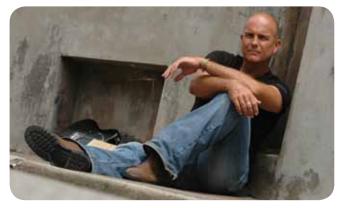


All about Queensland's largest event – the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) – including competitions, entertainment, exhibitors, personalities and people.



World first EkkaNITES

National Anthem 7:00pm
X-treme Action – featuring the Transformers 7:10pm
Country Music Legend James Blundell 7:30pm
Spectacular Fireworks 7:45pm



country music legend James Blundell



To book an event or for more information

EkkaNITES to go off with a bang

This year's brand new night show, EkkaNITES, is the only show of its kind in Australia. The nightly show will include the traditional elements like the woodchop and sheepdogs as well as a series of world firsts including the 'XTREME Action – Featuring the Transformers' - a one off show created uniquely for the Ekka, plus four giant mobile laser spheres with performers inside. FMX riders will fly through the air and country music legend James Blundell will rock the crowd before the show finishes with a bang when the brand new fireworks finale lights up the Brisbane sky. EkkaNITES will offer more excitement, more extreme and more action – a true 360 degree arena experience. It is being produced by Jack Ellison who has worked on blockbuster movies James Bond (Quantum of Solace) and Mission Impossible 2.

New Fireworks Finale

The fireworks finale is an Australian first show created just for the Ekka audience. For the first time the fireworks have been designed in a Bellagio effect – they will not only shoot skywards but sideways and inwards. There will be 18 separate firing points designed to ensure a 360 arena experience. The spectacular fireworks finale will also feature the breathtaking LED horses.



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Please note: The information contained in the Ekka Media Kit is current at the time of printing and subject to change

F-8

NEW to this year's Ekka

Music Stars

When: 4:30pm - 6pm Daily

Where: The Entertainment and Fashion Stage (F-10)

This year the hottest Sony pop acts from across the country will perform on the Ekka's Entertainment and Fashion Stage.

For the first time, Australian pop superstar Samantha Jade will bring a piece of stardom to the Ekka as she performs her catchy pop hits. Australian Idol winner Stan Walker will perform his soulful melodies while pop star Bonnie Anderson,

who rose to fame in 2007 on Australia's Got Talent, will captivate audiences with her hit single Blackout. It's back to back talent as Sydney pop-rock outfit Little Sea rock the stage with their popular tunes and Reigan Derry, fresh from her X Factor success, will sing her heart out as she wows the Ekka audience. Fans will have the chance to meet these Aussie superstars after their performances and even get an autograph and photo.





New look fashion parades

When: 12:30pm, 1:30pm and 2:30pm Daily

Where: The Entertainment and Fashion Stage (F-10)

The Ekka's most glamorous event has undertaken a major transformation. The iconic Natural Fibres Fashion Parades, presented by Cotton Australia, will be taken to dazzling new heights this year. For the first time the parades will incorporate the glitz, awe and glamour of the circus – its fashion under the big top! The parades will incorporate aerial artists and performers, plus the best new season fashion from some of Australia's top designers including Easton Pearson and Gail Sorronda.

The popular parades have been going since 1980 and have once again been created by renowned Australian Fashion Event Director Lindsay Bennett.

Fire whip cracker

When: 11am, 1pm and 3pm Daily (and during EkkaNITES)

Where: Upper Gregory Terrace

Nathan Griggs is taking the world of whip cracking by storm. The 22-year-old entertainer holds the world record for the most whip cracks in one minute, 530 whip cracks to be exact.

Nathan likes to play with fire, literally, and will be showing the Ekka crowd how impressive whip cracking tricks are when alight. Get ready for a cracking each night during EkkaNITES.





Family fun at this year's Ekka – great for the little kids

Dinosaur Adventures

When: 9am-5pm Daily

Where: The John Reid Pavilion (L-8)

Did you hear a roar? 'Jurassic World' fever will hit Ekka when Dinosaur Adventures stomp their mark on the show. For the first time the Ekka will host Dinosaur Adventures which will amaze both young and old. The John Reid Pavilion will play home to a prehistoric world where families can see moving dinosaurs come alive before their eyes. Guests can even try their hand at being a palaeontologist and participate in a fossil dig... Just beware of T Rex!





Hoot and Hootabelle

When: 10am, 11am and 12 noon Daily (no 10am show August 8)

Where: The Entertainment and Fashion Stage (F-10)

Kids favourite Hoot and Hootabelle will have the whole audience bopping at their Ekka show. The best friend owl-pal's, who love playing and singing together, invite the boys and girls to join in on the awesome fun! With lots of singing and dancing to some of their famous tunes, this show will charm its audience. Hoot's best friend Jimmy Giggle will also make a special appearance, visiting Ekka for the first time.



Pigs really will fly at this year's Ekka. It's a sight to see when these talented pigs race each other around a track and also jump into a pool of water. It's great family fun and something people of all ages will love.

Queensland's largest classroom

Big Bang Education

When: 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm Daily

Where: Education Stage, Upper Royal ICC (F-9)

Set to go off with a bang, this year's Ekka will feature the new Big Bang Education show. Over the 10 days of Ekka, the educational science show will run three different shows, exploring the loud noises and explosive fun of gases, the powerful pressure to levitate balls and flying toilet paper, and the illusions of the human body.

The Brisbane City Council Ekka Learning Trail

When: Daily

Where: Throughout the showgrounds

Kids will be inspired as they follow the Ekka Learning Trail each step of the way. The Brisbane Showgrounds will come alive during Ekka while students learn about the prehistoric world at Dinosaur Adventures, cuddle their favourite animals at the RACQ Animal

Nursery and learn about food and fibre at the AgForce stand. There are 16 step along the way.



....

Where: The Education Precinct, Upper Royal ICC

For the first time the Dirtgirlworld activity centre will be at the Ekka. Kids will get the chance to get their hands dirty as they learn how to grow their own seedlings, decorate their very own eco-friendly pot and finish off by planting their own seedlings that they can take home.







Australia's finest steak

state's finest food and wine offerings, this year's show will be a true foodie's paradise.

Where: Royal Queensland Steakhouse Presented by JBS Australia, Upper Royal ICC (E-9)

A highlight of the show will be the five-star experience on offer at the critically acclaimed Royal Queensland Steakhouse. Australia's best steaks, wines and cheeses, sourced directly from the RNA's prestigious Royal Queensland

Food and Wine Show, will be on the menu at the Ekka's fine dining restaurant. To start why not try Mooloolaba King Prawns or the Beef Carpaccio with truffle oil, for the main you can't go past the gold medal winning Grass fed beef or Wagyu served with a shiraz jus and chargrilled tomatoes and for the dessert the vanilla bean cheese cake served with salted caramel ice-cream is sure to impress. Last year the restaurant served 3,000 award-winning steaks to Ekka guests.

A smorgasbord of fresh produce

Where: Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion (I-10)

The Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion will once again offer a huge selection of fresh and delicious local produce for tasting or purchasing including award-winning Kingaroy Cheeses, the popular Bagel Boys creations, Ballandean Estate Wines, Nitrogenie ice-creams, handmade cupcakes from the Cupcake Parlour, Earth Oven Wood Fired Pizzas and the freshest samples at the Woolworths Fresh Food Showcase. With more than 70 vendors to choose from, The Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion is a favourite with food lovers.

A gourmet kingdom

Where: Gourmet Plaza - new location (H-8)

Gourmet Plaza will be filled to the brim with flavours from all over the globe. This foodie mecca welcomes Big Tony's Italian Street Food which will serve delicious meatballs and all things Italian, Let's do Yum Cha for the best dumplings in town, returning favourite SpanThai with their Thai and Spanish inspired dishes, German Sausage Hut and new this year is the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show stall serving gourmet beef rolls, Brisbane favourite Kwan Bros with their popular Asian inspired cuisine and Chiptease. Eat like a king at Gourmet Plaza and enjoy restaurant quality meals at affordable prices... you'll be in food heaven.









Iconic strawberry sundaes

The Ekka's sweetest icon, the Ekka Strawberry Sundae, will celebrate the 28 year partnership with the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation. 24,000 tonnes of strawberry and vanilla ice-cream will be supplied by Brisbane based gourmet ice-creamery Lick. A tasty treat for the whole family, the ice-cream is 100 per cent natural with no additives or preservatives... and the funds raised go to a good cause. Who could resist!?

Know your cuts

Where: The Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show Cooking Stage

This year it will be all about meat when JBS Australia and the Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) take the stage. JBS Australia will teach guests how to break down a carcass, while the AMIC will talk about different cuts of pork and lamb and how to cook them in the 'Know your cuts' presentation... or maybe you'd rather learn about the perfect sausages and rissoles thanks to the AMIC.

Food Of The Fair

The Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show Cooking Stage

Where: Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion

The Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show (RQFWS) Cooking Stage Presented by Westfield Chermside will be the perfect place for aspiring chefs, foodies and home cooks. Hosted by Dominique Rizzo, one of Queensland's leading female chefs, the stage will be full of tips and tricks in the kitchen. Ekka visitors will also get the chance to taste some of Dominique's delectable dishes. This year the cooking stage is all about the paddock to palate philosophy and is based around the RQFWS Champions on Show including a cooking with cheese class, cooking with beef and a beer, wine and cider masterclass with Dominique and beer connoisseur Matt Kirkegaard. Don't miss the special visit from the Queensland Country Women's Association who will be sharing their baking secrets.



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The Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show Cooking Stage timetable

What	When
Champions on Show: Butter, Milk and Cream hosted by Dominique Rizzo	10:30am August 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13
Champions on Show: Queensland Country Women's Association hosted by Dominique Rizzo	10:30am August 8, 11, 14 and 15
Breaking down a carcass presented by JBS Australia	11:30am Daily (except August 16)
Champions on Show: Cheese hosted by Dominique Rizzo	12:30pm Daily
Know your cuts: Lamb with the Australian Meat Industry Council hosted by Dominique Rizzo	1:30pm August 7,8,9,10,11
Know your cuts: Pork with the Australian Meat Industry Council hosted by Dominique Rizzo	1:30pm August 12,13,14,15,16
Champions on Show: Ice-cream, gelato and sorbet hosted by Dominique Rizzo	2:30pm Daily
Perfect Sausage and Rissoles presented by Australian Meat Industry Council	3:30pm Daily
Champions on Show: Branded beef hosted by Dominique Rizzo	4:30pm Daily
Champions on Show: Branded Lamb hosted by Dominque Rizzo	5:30pm Daily
Beer, wine and cider masterclass with Matt Kirkegaard and Dominique Rizzo	6:30pm Daily

Best food on the run

The food van phenomenon has well and truly hit the Ekka with the tastiest meals available from vans across the showgrounds. Don't miss the ever-popular Dagwood dogs, doughnuts, potato slinkys, German sausages, crepes, American inspired pulled pork rolls and kebabs to quash even the hungriest Ekka guest.

Time to wine down

Sirromet Sparkling Lounge

Where: Gourmet Plaza (H-8)

Queensland winery, Sirromet, will have their locally produced wines on show at the Sirromet Sparkling Lounge. After a day enjoying the Ekka sights, a glass of bubbles is much deserved.

Pepperjack Bar

Where: Upper Royal ICC (E-9)

Guests can taste a bit of the Barossa when they visit the new Pepperjack Bar. Filled with wines that reflect the famous wine region — they are richly flavoured and full of character. Our tip is a glass of Shiraz.



Wine on show

Where: Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion (I-10)

Taste Queensland's best wines at a selection of stalls in the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion. Golden Grove Estate, Ballandean Estate, Sirromet Wines, Granite Ridge Wines and Riversands Wines will all be on offer.



Food glorious food: Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show news, recipes, foodie people and produce.

Palate



THE JOHN KILROY CHA CHA CHAR GRAND CHAMPION BRANDED BEEF OF SHOW Australian Agricultural Company - Darling Downs Wagyu

BRANDED LAMB

CHAMPION BRANDED LAMB OF SHOW Melrose Wholesale Meats - Tasmanian Royal

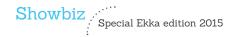
CHEESE CHAMPIONS

PALATABLE PARTNERS CHAMPION CHEESE OF SHOW Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese - Tarwin Blue

ICE CREAM CHAMPIONS

MAJORS GROUP GRAND CHAMPION ICE CREAM, GELATO OR SORBET OF SHOW Colin James Manufacturing QLD Pty Ltd - Colin James Chocolate

The prestigious Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show (RQFWS) is dedicated to celebrating the nation's best of the best and continues to unearth Australia's top food and wine products, year after year. In 2015 the RQFWS attracted more than 2800 entries across seven major competitions including the Cheese and Dairy Produce Show, Ice-Cream, Gelato and Sorbet Competition, Branded Lamb Competition, Branded Beef Competition, Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS), Sausage King Competition and the Ham, Bacon and Smallgoods Competition.



The Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show's champion products will be showcased at this year's Ekka on the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show Cooking Stage in the Woolworths Fresh Food Pavilion.



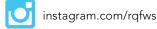
Confirming that Queensland produces some of the best beef in the world, a Darling Downs Wagyu 'steaked' its claim as the nation's finest in the RQFWS' prestigious Branded Beef and Lamb Competition. The Wagyu produced by Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) took out the coveted John Kilroy Cha Cha Char Grand Champion Branded Beef of Show beating 41 other entries in the grass fed, grain fed, Wagyu (marble score of 1-5) and Wagyu (marble score 6+) categories. Australia's best lamb was taken out for the second year in a row by Tasmanian Royal for its branded lamb product, sold by Melrose Wholesale Meats based in Morningside, Brisbane.

The Royal Queensland Wine Show is one of Australia's oldest and highly contested wine shows and this year it experienced an increase in both entries and exhibitors. Confirming that Australian chardonnay's star continues to rise, a Hunter Valley 2014 Chardonnay from First Creek Wines took out the Courier-Mail Grand Champion Wine of Show. Shiraz continues to go from strength to strength with the historic Stodart Trophy for Best Young Red of Show going to the 2014 Bandit Shiraz from Houghton Wines in Western Australia and Riesling performed well with the Brisbane Club Best Riesling of Show bestowed on Orlando Wines for its 2015 St Helga Eden Valley Riesling. Queensland wines also triumphed with Golden Grove Estate taking out two trophies for its 2014 Joven Tempranillo - Best Queensland Wine of Show and the John Chandler Memorial for Best Other Single Varietal Red of Show.

A "stunning" chocolate gelato from Maleny in Queensland has been crowned Australia's best. Colin James Fine Foods' chocolate gelato beat 160 ice cream, gelato and sorbet entries to win the Majors Group Grand Champions Ice-Cream, Gelato or Sorbet of Show. Taking out top honours in the Cheese and Dairy Produce Show was Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese from Victoria, winning The Grand Champion Dairy Product of Show for their Riverine blue cheese.

Don't forget to follow the RQFWS on social media







oca Cola





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