



The Ekka Courier

The newspaper of the Brisbane Show Camp

Online 2022



Friday

12 August 2022

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

- * 7:30 am – 4:30 pm: Farriers & Blacksmiths Competition
- * 9 am – 5 pm: Race Around the Ekka Competition
- * 8:45 am – 12:30 pm: Dairy Goats Judging
- * 9 am – 6 pm: SwarmFarm Robotics - Agricultural Hall
- * 1:30 pm – 5 pm: Stud Beef Small Breeds Judging

The Brisbane Show Camp is a joint program of Education Queensland and the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland. Conducted by the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre. Ph: 3552 7111



WHEEL OF TIME

By Cooper



Ferris Wheels at the Ekka have changed considerably over time – from wood and iron with open seats in the early 1900s to steel and glass enclosed wheelchair accessible gondolas today.

The first Ferris Wheel in 1908, was for sale in 1918 and the newspaper advertisement in the *Telegraph*, of 1 August 1918, asking the purchaser to “run the wheel or remove it from the Showgrounds immediately”.

In 1969 a Durkin Skymaster Ferris Wheel was introduced and it dominated the Ekka landscape between 1969 and the mid 2000s. Standing at over 40 metres high, the Skymaster gave a birds-eye view of the Showgrounds. The steel A-frame was removed during the first stage of the showgrounds upgrade.

A fan of the Skymaster, Nathan Henderson, set up a petition to bring the Skymaster back.

“It was such an iconic attraction and it is still widely talked about and missed by thousands of Brisbane locals,” Nathan said.

Ekka’s newest, the Crown Ferris wheel, lights up the Showgrounds with half a million dollars worth of lights in and out of the 26 fully panoramic gondolas.

This new ride can be enjoyed by everyone. It has no central pole making it wheelchair accessible, giving everyone the chance to experience the 360° view from the top of the wheel.

The erection of the Ferris Wheel each year tells Brisbane that the Ekka is nearly here.