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Ekka's Agricultural Hall has a new legend

Ekka stalwart Sydney 'Syd' Haag became the official 2015 Ekka Legend when he was crowned the title by RNA President David Thomas at a reception held at the Brisbane Showgrounds last night.

Syd, from Bundamba near Ipswich, has been heavily involved with the show for 67 years. Many know Syd from the Agricultural Hall where he is famous for the giant vegetables he grows and blue ribbon worthy district exhibit displays.

Syd was born into the Agricultural Show movement and followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, who started showing One Farm Exhibits (now known as the district exhibits) in 1921 at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka).

At the age of 16, in 1948, Syd began his association with the Ekka and moved on to become an honorary agricultural judge at the age of 21.

Since 1948, Syd has not missed an Ekka and continues to compete in the District Exhibits and Giant Vegetable Competitions. He and his wife Val have passed their love of agriculture on to their sons and daughters and in particular their grandson Thomas, who has already won prizes in the giant vegetable competitions.

RNA President David Thomas said Syd epitomised what an Ekka legend was all about.

"Syd has been involved with the show for 67 years and continues to dedicate much of his time to the Agricultural Hall," he said.

"Not only is he an advocate for the show and Queensland agriculture, but he's a mentor to many in the Youth District Exhibits and plays a key role in teaching the next generation about the Ag Hall."

RNA Councillor Gary Kieseker and Honorary Council Steward Robert Mahoney nominated Syd for the Ekka Legend Award for his tireless service to his committee, the RNA and the Queensland agricultural community.

Syd won't be hanging up his gardening tools anytime soon, he said he will continue to compete at the show as long as he is capable.

The Show Legend is a celebrated award presented each year and recognises the resolute dedication and effort made by an individual to both the RNA and the Ekka.

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