

Peoples Day, Wednesday 17 August

WHAT AN EKKA LEGEND!

EKKA legend John Ross stepped out from the shadows when he received the 2005 RNA Show Legend award at the Royal Queensland Show President's Reception last night.

For almost 60 years, Mr Ross has been delighting generations of EKKA visitors with his silhouette artistry in the Showbag Pavilion.

The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) Show Legend award honors people who have made a significant contribution to the RNA and EKKA over a number of years.

RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards said the award was created to recognise the contributions and efforts of people like Mr Ross, who have helped shape the history of the RNA and the EKKA.

"John Ross is an institution here at the Showgrounds. This is his 57th EKKA and he would have crafted the silhouettes of hundreds of thousands of our Show patrons," Dr Edwards said.

"He is arguably the best known and loved of our countless number of exhibitors and has brought a heartwarming smile and warm welcome to all generations of EKKA visitors. Mr Ross is an inspiration to us all, a fine and extremely talented artist and a delight for many.

"It would be virtually impossible to stage Queensland's biggest and best-loved Show without the involvement and commitment of the numerous people who volunteer their time each year. The EKKA is all about people."

Mr Ross is 87 years old and arrives at the Show before 9.00am each morning. He can produce up to 50 silhouettes each day and is the second person to receive this award in the history of the RNA.

He lives in the Blue Mountains of NSW and still travels to all major Royal Shows across the country. He has been made a Life Member of the Showman's Guild of Australasia.

The EKKA runs till the 20 August at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane.

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