

August 12, 2025

Veterinary leader honoured as Ekka Legend

From sleeping in the dairy sheds as a young veterinary student in the 1960s to shaping the Ekka's animal welfare and biosecurity practices in recent years, Dr Roly Neiper has been honoured with the RNA's highest accolade – the 2025 Ekka Legend Award.

He was awarded the prestigious title by RNA President David Thomas at a reception held at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) presented by the Bank of Queensland (BOQ) tonight.

Roly's association with the Ekka began in the mid-1960s when, as a veterinary student, he spent several years sleeping in the dairy sheds while caring for cattle from a local dairy farm.

Many years later, in December 2014, he returned to where his career began, appointed Chair of the RNA's Veterinary, Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Committee.

Since his first Show in that role in 2015, Roly has been the driving force behind the Ekka's veterinary and animal welfare practices.

A highly respected veterinary surgeon, Roly has served both within government and the RNA, including as Queensland's Chief Veterinary Officer and Director-General of the Department of Primary Industries.

RNA President David Thomas said Roly had brought invaluable expertise to the RNA.

"Biosecurity and animal welfare are of the utmost importance to the RNA and Roly's knowledge and experience have greatly benefited the Show," he said.

"Roly has proactively strengthened our preventative measures, guided our strategies through emerging biosecurity challenges, and always ensured our animals are housed, protected and cared for to the highest standards.

"He has a genuine understanding of our exhibitors' love and care for their animals and is well respected by both RNA staff and exhibitors for his personable approach.

"Roly's leadership has reinforced the RNA's commitment to the highest standards of animal welfare and biosecurity.

"We honour and thank Roly for his invaluable contribution to the Show over the past decade and look forward to continuing to work alongside him."

The Ekka Legend Award recognises individuals who have made a remarkable contribution to the Show.

It was introduced in 2004 and just 18 people have now been the recipient of the RNA's most prestigious honour.

EKKA ESSENTIALS:

- Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) August 9 – 17, 2025
- Brisbane Showgrounds, 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, Queensland
- Gates open at 9am
- Tickets are available online at www.ekka.com.au

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

The 2025 Ekka Media Kit is available to download. It is the most comprehensive information guide to the show – to download please visit [Media Kit](#)

For the latest updates, follow us on social media @TheEkka



And don't forget to download the Ekka App.



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