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Ekka Legend a stable mate

Mr Fred Andrews has been a popular fixture of the Ekka horse stables for nearly 50 years and last night he was awarded the coveted 2019 Ekka Legend Award for service to the Royal Queensland Show.

Mr Andrews began his association with Ekka as a harness racing competitor in the early 1970s, moving onto RNA trotting and swabbing steward roles which he fulfilled until last year when he retired at the age of 92.

RNA President David Thomas said the Ekka legend award was bestowed on those who had made a remarkable contribution to the Show.

“Fred Andrews has been a mainstay of the Ekka horse stables for nearly half a century and his passion for horse racing and the Show’s horse competition is undeniable,” said Mr Thomas.

“When the trots were run every day at Show in the 1970s, Fred was there as a trots steward and then he moved onto become swabbing steward for an incredible 40 years.

“Fred is being recognised for the longevity of his involvement at the Royal Queensland Show but equally for his impeccable presentation and professionalism. He is held in such high regard by his colleagues and Show horse competitors,” said Mr Thomas.

Fred Andrews has also been immortalised in RNA history as one of the young horse stewards in the iconic Ekka photograph of the three men sitting on Row 1 of the horse stables.

Mr Thomas said even to this day Fred Andrews could be found on his favourite Row 1 bench in the stables.

“Swabbing stewards are only required at certain times during the horse competition but you could rely on Fred to be there every day ready to work and always in the same spot on Row 1, which is now affectionately known as “Fred’s bench” ,” said Mr Thomas.

“Today on People’s Day we honour and thank Fred Andrews for his valuable contribution to the Royal Queensland Show over many years,” he said.

The Ekka Legend award was introduced in 2004 to honour people who made a remarkable contribution to Queensland’s largest and most loved annual event.

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