

August 11, 2026

Beef industry icon Terry Nolan honoured as 2026 Ekka Legend

A champion of Queensland's beef industry and a driving force behind the Ekka's prestigious Led Steer Competition, Terry Nolan has been recognised with the RNA's highest honour – the 2026 Ekka Legend Award.

The Nolan Meat Company director was presented with the honour by RNA President David Thomas at a reception held at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) presented by the Bank of Queensland (BOQ) tonight.

For almost 50 years, Terry has played a vital role in the Ekka's beef cattle competitions, particularly Led Steer, where he was instrumental in helping establish the competition in 1979.

He went on to judge his first Show in 1989 and has judged many Ekka competitions over the years, including Led Steer, Carcasses, Junior Judges, Prime Cattle and various Stud Breeds.

Terry's contribution to the Led Steer Competition has extended well beyond financial support through Nolan Meat Company. He has played a key role in evolving and promoting the competition, helping transform it into a true showcase of cattle excellence and an important link between producers and the broader beef industry.

Drawing on his extensive industry expertise, Terry has strengthened the competition's commercial relevance by aligning the judging criteria with real-world market specifications and processor requirements, enhancing the competition's integrity, educational value and industry impact.

By connecting producers with processors and markets, Terry has further strengthened the competition's role as a true paddock-to-plate showcase, reinforcing the Ekka's relevance to the modern beef value chain.

A passionate advocate for the next generation of beef producers, Terry has also supported schools and young exhibitors, encouraging participation and helping foster a strong connection between young people and the beef industry.

RNA President David Thomas said Terry's contribution represented the very essence of the Ekka Legend Award.

"Through his decades of involvement with the Ekka, Terry has made an outstanding contribution to the growth and success of the Led Steer Competition, while sharing his knowledge and expertise to support producers, exhibitors and the next generation of industry leaders," he said.

“Across changing market conditions and industry cycles, Terry has remained a consistent advocate for the Ekka and its agricultural competitions, promoting their importance to Queensland’s rural sector.”

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

It was introduced in 2004 and just 9 people have now been awarded the RNA’s most prestigious honour.

Ekka Essentials:

- Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) August 8 – 16, 2026
- Brisbane Showgrounds, 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, Queensland
- Gates open at 9am
- Tickets are available online at www.ekka.com.au
- The 2026 Ekka is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

The 2026 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



The 2026 Royal Queensland Show presented by the Bank of Queensland (BOQ) is celebrating a remarkable milestone this year – the 150th anniversary of the state’s biggest and most loved event. For generations of Queenslanders, the Show is an iconic and cherished tradition that epitomises a true sense of community spirit. Since the first show in 1876, the Ekka has been proudly revered for bringing the country to the city each year and forms a rich part of Queensland’s social and cultural heritage.

Follow us on socials for exciting updates on what’s planned for the Ekka’s 150th celebrations.



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