

media release



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HOW MUCH WOOD CAN A LEGEND CHOP IF A LEGEND COULD CHOP WOOD?

After more than fifty years of not burying his hatchet, Ekka Woodchop favourite **Noel McGregor** tonight will be awarded the **2007 RNA Show Legend Award** at the Royal Queensland Show President's Reception.

Still in full swing with an axe to grind, the keen Mr McGregor has delighted generations of EKKA visitors with his contributions to the Woodchop section: first as a chipper of a volunteer, then as a fast and furious competitor and showing his handle on the situation as a Honorary Council Steward.

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

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

"Noel McGregor is certainly a legend here at the Showgrounds, particularly in the Woodchop Arena," Dr Edwards said.

"It would be virtually impossible to stage Queensland's biggest and best-loved Show without the involvement and commitment of the many, many people who volunteer their time each year. The EKKA is all about people, and Mr McGregor is one of our most appreciated," he said.

"Mr McGregor epitomises what the Ekka and the RNA are all about. He has been an outstanding supporter of the Show Movement in Queensland."

Mr McGregor became involved with the RNA shortly after World War II in the Woodchop Arena cleaning up the woodchips during competition.

Over the fifty years since Mr McGregor first debuted at the Show he has continued to participate at the EKKA as an Honorary Council Steward (appointed in 1993) and starter in the Woodchop section.

As well as being an official Ekka Legend, Mr McGregor has been recognised for his involvement in the Show movement by Lions International and the Showmen's Guild of Australasia with the rare prestige of Life Membership and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for Service to Show Movement - now that's good chop.

For further information:

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The woodchop and sawing competition section attracted 1663 entries this year.
- The EKKA runs until 18 August at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane.
- Mr McGregor does not yet know he is a legend! Dr Edwards will present him with the award at approx 6pm tonight at the Ekka President's Reception in the Coffee Club Auditorium.