

LEGEND OF THE SECTION —Kens Woodchopping Story

Ken Christensen was born on 28- 03-1934. In 1948 while helping Ernie Barnes & Kens father build a tennis court at Virginia, Mr Barnes asked him to help get the blocks for the show. Back then all blocks were cut & trimmed by hand. In 1953 he had a boxing tournament at Blackbutt next day while watching wood chops, he said “if I couldn’t beat him, I’d eat my hat.”

Someone tapped him on the shoulder and said “you can’t do that until you try” so a block was trimmed for 2 and they chopped, Ken won by half a block and the Aboriginal named Jack Bichet said to him “I knew you could do that because I saw you at the Boxing last night.” That man became a very good friend after that. Choppers Joe Olzard and Vic Sommers got him to join the Axeman’s Association. His first registered chop was at Yarraman Show on the 23/09/1953.

Ken was able to run long distances and while in Wacol National Service in 1953, won the two-mile race. A race from Pechey to Crows Nest in 1955, Ken came second.

A real highlight for Ken occurred on the 10th October, 1974 at the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds when Ken chopped in front of the HRH Prince of Wales (now known as His Majesty King Charles III).

Each year at the Brisbane Exhibition where he stayed with the Landers family for a week was a great experience meeting the members from all over Australia, New Zealand And Canada.

In 1981 a trip to New Zealand with his family members and to stay with brother Laurie was great, chopping at South & North New Zealand. Wood was a lot different so he had a few loaned axes. After that a few NZ boys came to Australia and stayed with us.

In 1988 we flew to Perth for the show, then stayed for three weeks chopping around the South West of WA. From then on he went chopping every weekend from Rockhampton to Clermont to Roma to Lismore in Northern NSW and everywhere in between. The only time I saw him do any training was when Neville Gossow started chopping. Ken encouraged a number of local boys to start competing.

A trip to Tasmania for a couple of week as member of the QLD team was good, and on the way back competing at Brunswick Heads. For many years we made Brunswick Heads our annual holiday spot for the first week in January.

Ken was Chief Woodchopping Steward at Crows Nest show for many years. He took great pride in building events up to be one of the best in QLD. The most men competing ever was 76, that was a huge day. He stayed as Steward of Crows Nest show for a number of years after that. His last chop was here in the late 1990’s, not sure when, before he resigned in 2021. Since then our family sponsor chops with money each year.

Also getting the blocks was a big job- always taking his dozer to snig the trees then cut & trim the blocks all to size. Each heat has to be cut out of the same tree.

Ken was on the committee for a few years before being voted in as President in 1976 of Queensland Axeman’s Association – a position he held until 1997. He went to Sydney Show for a meeting with the Australian Axeman’s Association as the Presidents were responsible for keeping order in the ring.

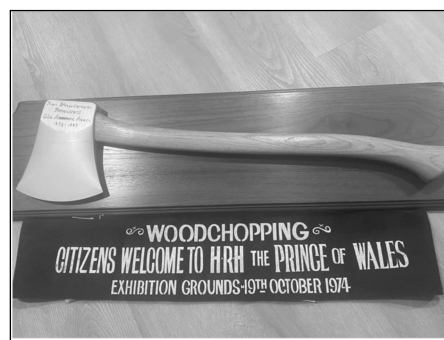
He was the official starter for chops counting with the stop watch to be exact. Ken also was a tree feller; only once falling from the top board when the board hole split out, landed with axe in hand. Ken always said they were the greatest sportsmen he had anything to do with and if you didn’t win it was your own fault. He has a lot of ribbons from chopping.



Ken proudly holding the QAA axe awarded to him on his retirement as QLD Axeman’s Association President.



Insignia reads, Ken Christensen, President, QLD Axemans, Assoc 1976-1997.



Broad ribbon presented to Ken after his chop in the front of the then HRH, Prince Charles, held 19th of October, 1974.

Crows Nest Show Woodchop Nominations Form

CROWS NEST SHOW – Saturday 10th May 2025

Stewards Archie Beutel & Wayne Stark

Starting time 9.00am

Competitor Name:

Entries close Monday 21st April 2025

Competitor Mobile:

QAA Secretary – Mr Jack Stratton

Date:

42 Twilight Drive

MUDGEERABA, QLD, 4213

E: qldaxemensassn@outlook.com

PH: 0455 520 550

The program is conducted under the rules and regulations of the Qld Axeman's Association and the Crow's Nest Show Society.

Event	Event Name	Prize Money	Entry Fee	Fee
1	250 S/B Handicap - Colin & Beryl Littleton Memorial	\$170, \$100, \$50	\$ 15.00	
sponsor	Ray White Crows Nest			
2	300 U/H Handicap - Ken and Del Christensen Family	\$500, \$300, \$200	\$ 15.00	
sponsor	ATC Engineers, Downs Precision Plastering, Gail Courte, Paul & Linda Christensen, Ken & Del Christensen			
3	300 S/B Handicap - Lance Stark Memorial	\$170, \$100, \$50	\$ 15.00	
sponsor	Jack Thorpe Constructions			
4	275 U/H Handicap - Ben Fitch Family Memorial	\$170, \$100, \$50	\$ 15.00	
sponsor	Grand Old Crow Hotel & Rod and Jan Klease			
5	300 Tree Handicap	\$170, \$100, \$50	\$ 15.00	
sponsor	Lions Club of Crows Nest & Cam & Fiona Littleton			
6	300 S/B Championship	\$230, \$130, \$70	\$ 15.00	
sponsor	E & E Waste			
7	275 U/H Handicap - Vets	\$140, \$90, \$50	\$ 15.00	
sponsor	Anduramba Porta Millers & Wayne Stark			
8	250 S/B Handicap - Vets	\$140, \$90, \$50	\$15	
sponsor	Wayne Stark & Yvonne Bradley @ Realty			
9	275 U/H Handicap - Novice	\$140, \$90, \$50	\$ 15.00	
sponsor	Sparks Industries Australia			
10	250 Junior U/H Handicap - D J Scheffe Memorial	\$75, \$55, \$35	\$ 10.00	
sponsor	Ashley Scheffe			
11	DHS Championship- Ron & Blanche Stark Memorial	\$200 + trophy, \$100, \$60	\$ 6.00	
sponsor	Greg & Nanette Stark & IGA			
12	DHS Handicap - L Middleton Memorial	\$200, \$100, \$60	\$ 6.00	
sponsor	Barb & Dennis Hogan & Ray Weis			
13	Jill Single Sawing QLD Title	\$300, \$200, \$100, \$50	\$ 6.00	
sponsor	O'Donnells Bakehouse			
14	Jack & Jill DHS Handicap	\$200, \$100, \$60	\$ 6.00	
sponsor	Clive Berghofer Developments			

Most points trophy for handicap events donated by Nutrien Ag Solutions

Most points sawing trophy donated by Wayne Stark

Total \$ -

Payment Option

EFT

Cheque

Cash

****Cheques & Money Orders to be made payable to: Queensland Axemen's Association ****

QAA Bank Details

BSB: 014-295

Account: 640 149 778

Reference: As per previous instructions



**CONSULTING
ENGINEERS**
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We thank our 2025 Woodchop sponsors for their continued & generous support.

O'Donnell's Bakehouse
E & E Waste
ATC Engineers
Downs Precision Plastering
Ken and Dell Christensen
Paul and Linda Christensen
Gail Courte
Jack Thorpe Constructions
Sparks Industries
Earthco Australia
Clive Berghofer Development
Ray White Rural
Grand Old Crow Hotel
IGA
Ray and Leanne Weis
Ben Fitch Family
Anduramba Porta Millers
Baileys Hardware
Beutel Family
Yvonne Bradley @Realty
Ashley Schefe
Denis and Barb Hogan
Rhino Machinery Hire



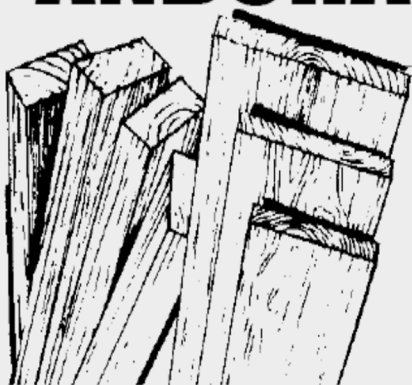


We thank our 2025 Woodchop sponsors for their continued & generous support.



RayWhite[®]
RURAL CROWS NEST

ANDURAMBA PORTA MILLERS



6 Creek Street
Crows Nest 4355

- Hardwood cut to order
- Palings, sleepers and fencing timber
- Table tops, bench tops and seats
- Cut and supply split and round posts, shed poles
- Delivery arranged

Vince Ashe 07 4698 1701

Wayne Stark 07 4698 4953