

REIQ celebrates three new life members

At the REIQ's Annual General Meeting in late October, three members were granted life membership status of the Institute.

The first new life membership was awarded to Bill Johnson, who has been involved with the REIQ for nearly 40 years. Bill became a real estate agent in 1972 and commenced his own agency that same year in Toowoomba. He has been involved with the REIQ since 1974 and been a REIQ member for some 39 years.

Bill has also been involved in valuations in South East Queensland since 1972 and has been required to give evidence in the Land Court, Local Government Court, District Court, Magistrates Court, Family Law Court and Supreme Court.

Prior to commencing his real estate career, Bill was employed in various parts of the state (Mackay, Brisbane, Barcaldine, Emerald and Toowoomba) by the Land Administration Commission (Department of Lands), 1965-72.

In addition to his services as a member of the Board of Directors from 1989 to 1995, Bill has been involved in the REIQ in a variety of positions throughout his long career.

The second life membership was awarded to Trevor Matthews of Matthews Real Estate in Brisbane's Annerley. Trevor began his real estate career in 1962 in the family business, which has held REIQ membership since 1935 (its membership number is 27).

In early 1963, at the age of just 21, he became the registered proprietor of the business on the passing of his


father, Les, and he obtained his real estate licence and auctioneer's licence over the next few months. To this day, some 51 years later, Trevor remains as a joint working proprietor with his brother Ken in the same family business.

From his early beginnings Trevor has always been a loyal supporter of the REIQ and served on the Board of Directors from 1987 to 1990 as well as a number of other voluntary positions, including being one of the original committee members who established the multiple listing service within the REIQ.

Mr Les Freeman was the third worthy recipient of an REIQ life membership. Les started his real estate career in 1979 when he went into partnership with his brother Harry in Cairns. Within a year the operation grew to three offices, namely Freeman Real Estate, Leaders Real Estate and Cairns Business Brokers.

In 1983, Les left the partnership and commenced Les Freeman Real Estate with his wife Melissa with Les concentrating on commercial real estate sales. During the 90s Les developed and sold around 150 home units to the local and away markets. During this period, Les Freeman Real Estate was a recipient of the REIQ Agency of The Year.

In 2010 Les sold his real estate business to concentrate on land subdivisions on the Atherton Tablelands and is still active in real estate.

In addition to his services as a member of the Board of Directors from 2001 to 2007, Les has contributed to and been involved with the Institute throughout his career, including as the former REIQ Cairns branch president from 1997 to 2001. 



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