

**Second year as finalists for Countryside Realty**

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FOR the second consecutive year, Noosa hinterland real estate agents Countryside Realty have been announced as finalists in the prestigious 2009 Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) Awards for Excellence.

The awards recognize the best practitioners in the industry, with only the very best most professional agencies reaching the finals.

Principal of Countryside's Cooroy office, John Harding, who has just celebrated 30 years in the real estate industry, said that to reach the finals two years running was a huge achievement for the agency.

"To have the states peak professional association judge us to be in the top handful of agencies in the state for two consecutive years is fantastic. About 85% of all real estate agencies in Queensland are REIQ members and that's a lot of agencies, so to be in the top 5 is really exciting".

Established in Cooroy in 2002, Countryside specialise in Noosa hinterland real estate sales, including the townships of Cooroy, Pomona, Eumundi, Cooran and Kin Kin , and all the surrounding rural acreage properties.

2008 has been a great year for our company. Our new Pomona office has quickly established itself as the dominant agency in that town and the benefits to our sellers and buyers through the much broader coverage have been enormous. Our market share has continued to grow and we are now selling more properties than ever before. We achieved Carbon Neutral Certification from the Carbon Reduction Institute, meaning we have substantially reduced our greenhouse gas emissions and have contributed to worthwhile projects to offset those emissions we simply cannot avoid.

In association with Noosa Landcare we gave away a large number of trees and plants to Hinterland residents, a great contribution to the environment.

We assisted with a number of community fundraising initiatives, expanded our staff to include a free design and décor service for our sellers, improved and dramatically expanded our website and internet presence, and continued to grow our business during challenging trading conditions.

The winners of the 2009 Awards for Excellence will be announced on 13 February 2009 in Brisbane and we are hopeful of winning the State award and qualifying for the National Awards later in the year.

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