
Finalists battle it out for the Australasian Auctioneering Crown

Australia and New Zealand are battling it out again but this time the two countries are going head to head at the 2018 Australasian Real Estate Institutes' Auctioneering Championships with the winner to be crowned Australasia's best auctioneer at a gala dinner tonight.

The Real Estate Institute of New Zealand (REINZ) is playing host this year and the five finalists who will compete in Auckland from midday AEDT today are: [Bronte Manuel](#) representing South Australia, [Mitch Peereboom](#) of Queensland, [Andrew North](#) of New Zealand, [Alec Brown](#) of the Australian Capital Territory and [John Bowring](#) representing New Zealand.

Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) President Malcolm Gunning said the competition is an extreme test of the auctioneers' skill and ability and highlights the best the industry has to offer.

"With two finalists, New Zealand look very strong," he said. "Justin Nickerson of Queensland took out the championships last year for a second year in a row and the Kiwis want revenge this year.

"They could just make it happen with NZ's Andrew North a winner of the 2014 Auctioneering Championships. He does, however face strong competition from Bronte Manuel who was a finalist in 2017, while Alec Brown is the first representative of the ACT to make the final in its 20-year history," Mr Gunning said.

"The quality is truly exceptional and a great spectacle with participants creating momentum in the bidding, while building rapport with the crowd.

"Devised bidding processes test the Auctioneers' aptitude, attention and ability to think on their feet and to be successful, competitors have to deal with a wide range of testing questions and unpredictable bids. Combining skill, professionalism and technical knowledge, the candidates are highly accomplished, high-energy performers," he said.

Open to the public, the Australasian Auctioneering Championships host 22 auctions over two days. The event is also being streamed on event partner GavI from midday to 2.00pm AEDT at the following links:

Bronte Manuel - <https://www.gavl.com/dashboards/propertydetails/7eESQ2F2XS>

Mitch Peereboom - <https://www.gavl.com/dashboards/propertydetails/aMqROTIo0g>

Andrew North - <https://www.gavl.com/dashboards/propertydetails/fBL3Otoj7K>

Alec Brown - <https://www.gavl.com/dashboards/propertydetails/5GNgk2BFou>

John Bowring - <https://www.gavl.com/dashboards/propertydetails/WQ6NRhco5G>

Earlier today the five finalists were given details and a tour of a property to be 'mock-sold' in the auctions to decide the winner of the highly prestigious title of the Australasian Real Estate Institutes' Auctioneering Champion for 2018.

The third **Schools Auctioneering Championship** will also be conducted between 9.30am and 11.00am AEDT with Rose Elliott and Max Hart of Kerikeri High School, Russell representing New Zealand, the first time New Zealand has been involved in the Schools Auctioneering Championships. Enrique Bisbal of Endeavour College and Vincent Doran of Underdale High School will represent South Australia and Conall Cassidy of Launceston Church Grammar School will represent Tasmania. The aim of the Schools Auctioneering Championship is to introduce students to the world of real estate making it a first choice career.

Winners of the Australasian Real Estate Institutes' Auctioneering Championship and the Schools Auctioneering Championship for 2018 will be announced during a gala dinner to be held this evening in the Maritime Room, Viaduct Harbour, Auckland.

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) is the national professional association for real estate agents in Australia. For further information or to interview REIA President Malcolm Gunning please contact Helen Hull at media@reia.com.au or 0419 642 961. IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.