



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MEN OF LEAGUE RECOGNISES NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

The Men of League Foundation has conferred Life Membership to three of its most deserving volunteers. Chair of the Foundation, Helen Wood Grant, declared **Ron Atkins, John Ribot** and **Ken Vessey** have each been awarded the Foundation's most prestigious accolade in recognition of their outstanding service and accomplishments to the Foundation and to those it supports. "These nominations come from their peers and reflect the enormous esteem in which their colleagues and the Board hold them, but most importantly these honours reflect their continuous and exceptional service over an extended period of time, and the measurable benefit their contribution has brought to the Foundation and to its rugby league constituency."

**Ron Atkins** was a leading member of the Foundation Group which established the Queensland arm of the Men of League Foundation in 2003, and the inaugural President of the Brisbane Committee which ensued, where he served as President until 2016. Ron remains as its very enthusiastic and involved Patron today. Many of the Brisbane and Queensland State fundraising events remain amongst the Foundation's most successful and enduring ones, and owe much to Ron's personal vision, his tireless enthusiasm and his significant contacts and respect within the rugby league community. And Ron's very personal and genuine connection and involvement with the many people the Foundation has supported through the Brisbane Committee is exemplary and a testament to Ron's commitment to the Foundation's values and mission.

**John Ribot** is a Foundation Member of the Men of League Foundation, and was a leading proponent and activist for the formation of the Foundation's Victorian Committee in 2010, where John continues as its active Patron since its establishment. Through his substantial business connections, and driven by his personal passion for the work the Foundation undertakes in supporting those less fortunate within the rugby league community, John has secured very significant sponsorship and ongoing funding for the work of the Foundation in both Victoria and in Queensland. John is also behind the scenes and a valued guest speaker at many of our events, and continues to personally support the Foundation's major events in both Melbourne and Brisbane.

**Ken Vessey** has been, and continues to be, one of the Foundation's most committed and effective volunteer Wellbeing Officers, a role he continues to perform since 2006 with absolute passion and enthusiasm. Ken's genuine concern and empathy, and his tireless energy and voluntary time contribution in personally visiting and supporting over 200 wellbeing recipients within the entire Sydney metropolitan region is the epitome of what the Foundation represents in the rugby league community. Ken continues to serve on the Foundation's National Wellbeing Committee, a role he has fulfilled since 2016, proving invaluable advice and insight to the Board and staff.

"These gentlemen are each outstanding servants of the Foundation, demonstrating a tireless devotion to the rugby league family and making an extraordinary contribution over many years. It is my absolute honour and privilege to announce these awards today," said Ms Wood Grant.

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