



WINNERS - SYDNEY FISH MARKET SEAFOOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2009

On Saturday 14th March, 2009, Sydney Fish Market hosted the Seafood Excellence Awards at Star City Grand Ballroom to highlight outstanding achievements in Australia's world class seafood industry. With fourteen award categories, no aspect of the state's vibrant seafood trade went unnoticed, with awards ranging from industry judged categories including Environmental Excellence, Seafood Business Awards and Best Seafood Restaurant, to the People's Choice Awards for Best Fish and Chips (Sydney and regional). Special guest celebrity hosts, **Vince Colosimo** and **Rodger Corser**, a 5 star menu created by SMH 2008 Chef of the Year **Sean Connolly** and world class live entertainment headlined by **Deni Hines** kept the who's who of the Australian seafood and hospitality industries celebrating into the night.

Mr Graeme Byrnes was honoured to be the recipient of the **Star Of The Sea** - This highly prestigious award is given to an individual who is considered an ambassador for the Seafood Industry and who has made a significant contribution to the development of the Seafood Industry. G.G & M Howard were also recognised for their sustained action to improve the waterways and their ability to support natural fish populations receiving the **Excellence in Environmental Practice** award.

Top restaurant honours went to **Yoshii Restaurant** (Best Seafood Restaurant – Sydney) and **Fin's Seafood Restaurant and Bar** (Best Seafood Restaurant – Regional). **Ocean Foods** took out the Best Fish and Chips in Sydney while **Bub's Fish and Chips** in Nelson Bay held on to win best regional fish and chips. Another highlight of the evening was the announcement of apprentice **Annie Watt from Universal** as the Inspired By Seafood Award winner. Inspired By Seafood offered a unique and exciting opportunity challenging apprentice chefs from all over NSW to create a new recipe using Yellowtail Kingfish. In February 2009 finalists participated in a Seafood Showdown at Sydney Seafood School where they had the opportunity to create their own seafood masterpiece for judges: Sean Connolly (Astral Restaurant), Roberta Muir (Manager, Sydney Seafood School) and Valli Little (Food Editor, Delicious Magazine).

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke congratulated all the finalists and winners and said it was a testament to the consistently high quality of the Australian seafood industry: "*The best dishes start with the best ingredients and you can't go past Australian seafood for high quality and great taste*" Mr Burke said.

Grahame Turk, Managing Director of Sydney Fish Market would like to thank everyone who was involved in making this night such a huge success and again offers his congratulations to all the well deserving winners and highly commended.

The evening's entertainment was headlined by the dynamic **Deni Hines**, who through hit singles and albums, lead roles in musicals & television has established herself as one of Australia's foremost entertainers. Additional entertainment on the night included Fiona Treloar & Dylan Peters performing a tribute to Suzie Diamond & The Fabulous Baker Boys and The Alexander Project featuring Christo & Melinda Jackson.

2008 Good Food Guide Chef of the Year **Sean Connolly** of Astral Restaurant created a scrumptious culinary experience for the night. Sean was GQ Chef of the Year 2008; 'Chef of the Year' at the 2006 and 2007 Australian Hotels Association Awards for Excellence. Guests were treated to a never seen before, de-constructed Prawn cocktail as a feature entree along with Sashimi of Ocean Trout, Hiramasa Yellowtail Kingfish, Yellowfin Tuna, fresh wasabi leaves and soy & mirin jelly.

Sydney Fish Market wish to thank all their sponsors who helped make the evening such a fabulous success: De Costi (Holdings) Pty Ltd, Tassal Limited, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Seafood Experience Australia, Cleanseas, Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative Limited, Charter Refrigerated Transport, Christie's Seafoods, Gasoline Communications Group, Fisheries Research & Development Corporation.

Category	Winner	Highly Commended
Best Fish and Chips – Sydney	Ocean Foods, Drummoyne	n/a
Best Fish and Chips – Regional	Bub's Fish and Chips, Nelson Bay	n/a
Best Seafood Restaurant – Sydney	Yoshii Restaurant	Finefish
Best Seafood Restaurant – Regional	Fins Seafood Restaurant and Bar, Byron Bay	Ocean Restaurant, The Entrance
Inspired By Seafood	Annie Watt, Universal Restaurant	Kevin Lin, Garfish Jamie Blows, Rocksalt Newcastle
Excellence in Environmental Practice	G.G & M Howard	Bribie Marine Fisheries Cleanseas
Seafood Promotion Award	Kinkawooka Shellfish	Peter Evans De Costi Seafoods (Holdings) Pty Ltd
Seafood Business Award	De Costi Seafoods (Holdings) Pty Ltd	Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative Ltd JD's Seafood Export Contractors
Star of The Sea	Mr Graeme Byrnes	n/a
Best Supplier Aquaculture	Kinkawooka Shellfish	Sundown Fish Farm Clem Jones Qld Prawn Farm
Best Supplier NSW	Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-operative Ltd	Commercial Fishermen Co-operative Ltd
Best Supplier Interstate or Overseas	OPC Fish and Lobster	Good Fortune Bay Fisheries Ltd Abacus Fisheries
Best Seafood Retailer – Suburban and Regional	Costi's @ Westpoint Pty Ltd	Penrith Seafoods at Wetherill Park
Best Seafood Retailer – Sydney Fish Market	De Costi Seafoods, Sydney Fish Market	Christies Seafood Pty Ltd



For further media information or images please contact:

Amanda Fry or Mel Guyatt @ 6dc

T: 61 2 9280 1600 / 0418 262 282 E: amanda@6dc.com.au; mel@6dc.com.au