

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE LION HOTEL - THE PRIDE OF THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

Last night the iconic **Lion Hotel** in North Adelaide was recognised as the **South Australian Hotel of the Year for 2009** at the **AHA|SA's Hotel Industry Awards for Excellence** held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

This leading edge venue is already well known for its outstanding restaurant, and has also taken out the award for Best Restaurant – General Division for the fourth year in a row.

The passion of owners **Tim Gregg and Andrew Svencis** has seen them add another award to their collection this year – Best Bar Presentation & Service – Metropolitan. Having reopened the bar in June 2008 after extensive redevelopment, this venue has lifted the benchmark once again.

The new bar features pure Caluatta Marble from Italy, solid Tasmanian Oak bar tops, and vintage leather throughout, whilst also combining state-of-the-art audio and visual systems.

Their commitment to keeping the new bar refurbishments “clean, modern but never overworked; with elements to wow, but an overall feeling of comfort”, has proven to be a success with a 20% increase in growth since the refurbishment.

“Owners Tim Gregg and Andrew Svencis should be commended on their success” said AHA|SA General Manager Ian Horne.

“They have established a hotel that consistently offers it all – great food, fantastic service, a warm atmosphere and a truly unforgettable experience”.

The Lion Hotel is no stranger to achieving great things, having won the National AHA award for Best Hotel in Australia in 2007.

Five other hotels were recognised with multiple honours at tonight's awards:

- **Hilton Adelaide** – Best Marketed Hotel – Accommodation Division; Best Environmental Practice; Outstanding Achievement in Training
- **Ceduna Foreshore Hotel Motel** – Best Retail Outlet – Country; Best Bistro/Casual/Family Dining – Country;
- **Port Lincoln Hotel** – Best Gaming Venue – Country; Best Bar Presentation and Service – Country;
- **The Highway** – Best Retail Outlet – Metropolitan (joint winner with Edinburgh Hotel & Cellars); Best Outdoor or Non-Enclosed Facility
- **The Hilton Hotel, Hilton** – Best Redeveloped Hotel – Metropolitan; Best Marketed Hotel – General Division

All winners from the AHA|SA Awards will now go on to compete in the national AHA awards held in the Gold Coast on July the 17th.

For further information, please read the following pages or contact:

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2009 AHA | SA Hotel Industry Awards for Excellence Final Winners

2009 AHA | SA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE - WINNERS

Best Pub-Style Accommodation

- Bellum Hotel, Mount Schank

Best Mid-Range Accommodation

- Largs Pier Hotel

Best Deluxe Hotel Accommodation

- Sebel Playford Adelaide

Best Bistro/Casual/Family Dining – Country

- Ceduna Foreshore Hotel Motel

Best Bistro/Casual/Family Dining – Metropolitan

- Hotel Tivoli

Best Restaurant – General Division

- Lion Hotel, North Adelaide

Best Restaurant – Accommodation Division

- Hyatt Regency Adelaide – ‘Shiki’

Best Bar Presentation & Service – Country

- Port Lincoln Hotel

Best Bar Presentation & Service – Metropolitan

- Lion Hotel, North Adelaide

Best Retail Outlet – Country

- Ceduna Foreshore Hotel Motel

Best Retail Outlet – Metropolitan

- Edinburgh Hotel & Cellars
- The Highway

Best Outdoor or non-enclosed facility

- The Highway

Best Entertainment Venue

- Governor Hindmarsh Hotel - The Gov

Best Sporting Entertainment Venue

- Lakes Resort Hotel

Best Redeveloped Hotel – Country

- Taminga Hotel, Clare

Best Redeveloped Hotel – Metropolitan

- Hilton Hotel, Hilton

Outstanding Community Service & Achievement

- Watermark, Glenelg

Best Marketed Hotel – Accommodation Division

- Hilton Adelaide

Best Marketed Hotel – General Division

- Hilton Hotel, Hilton

Best Environment Practice

- Hilton Adelaide

Best Gaming Venue – Country

- Port Lincoln Hotel

Best Gaming Venue – Metropolitan
Golden Grove Tavern

Outstanding Achievement in Training
o Hilton Adelaide

Hotel Industry Rising Star Award
o Emily Tarca - Aldgate Pump Hotel

Best Overall Hotel
o Lion Hotel, North Adelaide

The BEST PUB-STYLE ACCOMMODATION is the BELLUM HOTEL, MOUNT SCHANK

Situated just 10 minutes from Mount Gambier, the Bellum Hotel has the picturesque Mount Schank Volcano as its backdrop. The focus of the family run Bellum Hotel is award winning food, modern accommodation and a great family atmosphere. The comfortable rooms at the Bellum have double and bunk beds and a private ensuite. The onsite Manager caters for those visitors arriving beyond business hours and bookings can be made via the website, email or phone. And all the rooms open up to a fully secure enclosed area which is ideal for a private breakfast or a pre dinner drink!

BEST MID RANGE ACCOMMODATION is the LARGS PIER HOTEL

With its renovation spanning 18 months, the Largs Pier Hotel has been rejuvenated into a stunning attraction with 15 gorgeous Victorian Heritage hotel rooms and 18 modern motel rooms. All 33 rooms are fully air-conditioned, feature foxtel, luxury bedding and Manchester, with modern ensuite facilities. The 24 hours wireless internet, fax machines and secretarial support makes the Large Pier very appealing to the business traveller. Guests have a broad food and beverage offering, from a la carte to bar dining. Guests wake to the spectacular view over St Vincent's Gulf and the smell of fresh coffee beans grinding. For business or leisure, the Largs Pier has it all.

The BEST DELUXE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION is the SEBEL PLAYFORD ADELAIDE

The Sebel Playford has won this award through its commitment to excellence and ongoing supreme standard in accommodation. The Sebel Playford is always improving and refurbishing, with the assistance of Interior Designer Kathryn Kay. From flat screens, chaise seating and an extensive pillow selection – attention to detail is at the forefront of the Sebel philosophy. One of the appealing features of the rooms is that they are 20% larger than the five star standards, and there are a higher proportion of suites than in other hotels.

The BEST BISTRO/CASUAL/FAMILY DINING - COUNTRY is the CEDUNA FORESHORE

The Ceduna Foreshore features outstanding views over beautiful Murat Bay. With a population of nearly 4,000, Ceduna is also on the doorstep to the Nullarbor attracting many visitors. With the emphasis on 'quality meals at affordable prices', the Ceduna Foreshore has seen an increase in bistro business by 44% for the year! This growth along with the attention to detail, value for money and friendly professional staff makes the Ceduna Foreshore a 'come to' venue for the region.

THE BEST BISTRO/CASUAL/FAMILY DINING – METROPOLITAN is the HOTEL TIVOLI

Hotel Tivoli has won this award due to its innovative approach to Bistro Dining and attention to detail. From a quick affordable lunch to a lingering dinner affair, Hotel Tivoli caters for all in this stunning refurbishment. Swift and attentive service, coupled with an honest and wide ranging menu that seriously delivers, makes this venue a leader in its class – and the Schnitzel is fantastic! Do yourself a favour and head in to Hotel Tivoli for a fantastic dining experience.

The BEST RESTAURANT (GENERAL DIVISION) is the LION HOTEL

This is the fourth consecutive year that the Lion Hotel has taken out this award. A first for the AHA Hotel Awards. The Restaurant at the Lion Hotel continues to operate to exceptional standards as a destination venue. The philosophy is simple – provide the best product with the best service in the best environment. And it delivers year upon year

The BEST RESTAURANT (ACCOMMODATION DIVISION) is SHIKI at Hyatt Regency Adelaide

At Shiki, diners watch in anticipation as their morsels are prepared by the chefs. This stunning Japanese Restaurant at the Hyatt Regency is widely regarded in South Australia for its high quality teppanyaki dining experience. Shiki combines the best seasonal produce, with talented chefs and five-star service. For over 20 years Shiki has been creating its culinary masterpieces. It continues to remain popular amongst in-house guests, food critics and local diners. A truly amazing experience. Well done to the team at the Hyatt Regency!

The BEST BAR PRESENTATION AND SERVICE (COUNTRY) is the PORT LINCOLN HOTEL

Sharky's Bar at the Port Lincoln Hotel has been designed to take in the spectacular view of Boston Bay. With contemporary furnishings, large plasma screens, TAB, NPL Poker, karaoke and live bands – Sharky's does it well. In the daytime Sharky's lets in the view and natural light and at night, it turns up the vibe with intelligent lighting and an impressive PA. A diverse meal offering and extensive beverage list along with friendly and professional staff has set this bar ahead of the rest.

The BEST BAR PRESENTATION AND SERVICE (METROPOLITAN) is the LION HOTEL

The Lion Hotel, North Adelaide has excelled in its delivery of a fantastic refurbishment of its bar. With a commitment to 'clean and modern but never overworked', the bar has its 'wow' factor with an overall feeling of comfort. The service is second to none, with a premier beverage and food offering echoing the standard of the rest of the hotel. A little bit vintage with super modern elements. Evidence on the success of the bar renovation is its increase in patronage since the renovation of 20%.

The BEST RETAIL OUTLET (COUNTRY) is the CEDUNA FORESHORE HOTEL MOTEL

The Clocktower Bottleshop at the Ceduna Foreshore Hotel Motel is a very popular outlet. The modern bottleshop is well laid out for easy accessibility and traffic flow. They have an extensive range of products, with helpful staff that are knowledgeable and friendly. Wine tastings, in-house promotions and marketing all contributes to the success of this outlet. Well done to the team at the Ceduna Foreshore Hotel Motel.

The BEST RETAIL OUTLET (METROPOLITAN) is JOINT WINNERS - The EDINBURGH HOTEL & CELLARS, MITCHAM and THE HIGHWAY

For a third consecutive year, the Edinburgh Hotel & Cellars has won this prestigious award, this time as a joint winner with The Highway.

Since 1997, the independently operated Edinburgh Cellars has offered a broad selection of wines, beers and spirits that is second to none. It features three underground cellars for wine tastings and highly competent staff who boast many credentials.

The Highway Thirsty Camel bottleshop & drive through offers a broad selection of beverages. Staff are highly trained and the commitment to customer marketing and improved facilities has seen a significant growth in trade.

The BEST OUTDOOR OR NON-ENCLOSED FACILITY belongs to THE HIGHWAY

The Highway is also a back to back winner in this award category.

'The Deck' at The Highway has definitely cemented its place as an iconic outdoor area, with its soaring sails, massive LCD screen, cosy couches and sleek finishes, it is welcoming no matter what the season weather or occasion. Knowledgeable friendly staff, great food, a great beverage offering and fantastic entertainment make this outdoor area a leader in its field. If you haven't already, take a trip to 'The Deck' and experience it for yourself.

The BEST ENTERTAINMENT VENUE is the GOVERNOR HINDMARSH HOTEL – THE GOV

This is the third consecutive year that The Gov has taken out this award. A fantastic achievement.

Between the regular local bands playing in the front bar and the world-class music featured in the venue, The Gov really is Adelaide's home of live, original music. It holds Open Mic sessions and Ukulele Appreciations Society Meetings in the front bar, Irish Jam Sessions on Fridays and local bands on Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays.

The BEST SPORTING ENTERTAINMENT VENUE is the LAKES RESORT HOTEL

The Fifth Quarter Bar at the Lakes Resort Hotel is specially designed for the sports enthusiast. It boasts the best of visual technology along with TAB, FoxSports, an eight ball competition, Sports Pick, PGA Golf, X Lotto just to name a few. There is an extensive beverage selection including eighteen tap beers, an all day menu served by the highly trained staff. The collection of memorabilia also takes some beating including Magarey Medals, a Bradman signed Cricket Bat and a Led Zeplin Guitar. The only thing they overlook is the lake!

The BEST REDEVELOPED HOTEL - COUNTRY is the TAMINGA HOTEL, CLARE

The 14 month renovation of the Taminga Hotel at Clare has produced a fantastic refurbishment of a tired old landmark. Much thought and planning has gone into the redevelopment since the Giannitto Family purchased the hotel in 2004. The main focus was to increase the serviceability of the hotel, improving facilities and addressing the comfort of patrons. The increased turnover since refurbishment has reached over 80% in all areas. A big renovation for the area, but evidence that Clare will 'grow into the new Taminga'. Well done to the vision of the Giannitto Famiy on a fantastic redevelopment!

The BEST REDEVELOPED HOTEL – METROPOLITAN is the HILTON HOTEL, HILTON

The redevelopment of the Hilton Hotel commenced in 2006 with a complete overhaul of the hotel. The traditional front bar has been transformed into a vibrant night life venue with a hip crowd with an emphasis on technology and comfort whilst the comfortable beer garden is useable all year round. The practical dining area and function rooms offer highly useable spaces whatever your event. There is ample parking and the hotel blends well with its surroundings and the restoration of the original sandstone façade has maintained its heritage. No corner has been untouched. Well done to the Franzone Family for the fabulous redevelopment.

The most OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT goes to WATERMARK, GLENELG

The Directors, Management and Staff of the Watermark Glenelg have dedicated themselves to supporting children, their siblings and families in the fight against childhood cancer and other illnesses. In the past year the Watermark has donated a combined total of **\$60,000** to Camp Quality and the McGuinness McDermott Foundation. This tally has been achieved through a number of fundraising initiatives including sausage sizzles, one dollar from bottled water sales and an amazing 50cents from **every main meal served in the hotel**. The staff also participate in fundraising fun days. Well done to David Elmes and his team for their commitment to such a great cause!

The BEST MARKETED HOTEL – ACCOMMODATION DIVISION is HILTON ADELAIDE

This is the third year in a row that the Hilton Adelaide has won this award – a fantastic achievement.

As Best Marketed Hotel, the Hilton has displayed many facets of brilliance across its marketing plan, on a domestic and international scale. A real winner for the hotel has been its 'Who's cooking you dinner tonight' campaign with celebrity chefs Cheong Liew and Simon Bryant and the 'City View' campaign to improve the perception of their rooms in the local market.

The BEST MARKETED HOTEL – GENERAL DIVISION is HILTON HOTEL, HILTON

The judges were very impressed with this submission from the Hilton Hotel due to its all encompassing approach to marketing strategy. The venue has displayed a very smart and resourceful approach to re launching the hotel. The Hiltons use of market research and accumulating patron's details through an extensive database has provided the venue with a significant return on investment.

With these vital ingredients, the hotel is sure to be on a path to success.

The BEST ENVIRONMENT PRACTICE is THE HILTON ADELAIDE

Hilton Adelaide has a clear goal to be an environmental leader in the hospitality industry and to be recognised by the community as an environmental champion. This is evidenced by their commitment to environmental issues including waste management, water saving, and recycling. The Hilton launched its 'We Care' campaign in 2008 bringing to life their mission to support the environment. Well done to the Hilton Adelaide!

The BEST GAMING VENUE - COUNTRY is the PORT LINCOLN HOTEL

Offering a range of the latest gaming machines and a modern spacious atmosphere, the Port Lincoln Hotel caters for every discerning patron. Ongoing promotions and regular Goldrush member's parties provides fun and entertainment. The venue strictly adheres to all Responsible Gambling Operations and engages regularly with Gaming Care, the Responsible Gambling Early Intervention Agency.

The BEST GAMING VENUE - METROPOLITAN is the GOLDEN GROVE TAVERN

The Golden Grove Taverns' recent refurbishment was completed in November 2008. The gaming room offers great ambience, comfortable and relaxing surroundings, with elegant touches including the use of Carrera Marble. Monthly promotions are held for the major events throughout the year. The fantastic machine layout including 34 of the latest and popular gaming machines keeps the room ahead of its peers! The Golden Grove Tavern engages with Gaming Care on a regular basis, and ongoing staff training is evidence of their commitment to responsible practices.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN TRAINING is awarded to HILTON ADELAIDE

Training at Hilton Adelaide is structured and well organised to meet the business objectives of their hotel – to be number one in SA and to be the employer of preference within the hospitality industry. They are congratulated on their ongoing contribution to the hotel industry through their excellent training initiatives and their active promotion to raise the professionalism of the industry in SA.

HOTEL INDUSTRY RISING STAR AWARD is awarded to EMILY TARCA, ALDGATE PUMP HOTEL

Well done to Emily Tarca on winning this prestigious award.

Entrants in this award must be aged 26 or younger and in a management position in a hotel.

The judges decided on the winner by taking into account the entrants' knowledge, expertise, interest, involvement and ambitions in the hotel industry.

Emily will now go forward to the AHA National Awards on the Gold Coast in 2 weeks time to be judged against her fellow nominees from other states by a panel of expert judges. We wish her all the best!

The BEST OVERALL HOTEL is the LION HOTEL

With such a strong and consistent year of award nominations, the highlight was the Lion Hotel. From the incredible vision of Tim Gregg and Andrew Svencis and their very competent staff, the Lion has it all. This leading edge venue has been lifted to the fore once again with its modern bar refurbishment complimenting the high standard of other departments. What the Lion promises, it delivers. Great food, great service, a great atmosphere and an unforgettable experience! After 12 years this hotel still sets the benchmark for the South Australian hotel Industry. Well done to a fantastic pub.