

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009



## **The new “Tasmanian Hospitality Association” Officially launched**

The new Tasmanian Hospitality Association (THA) – the merged Australian Hotels Association (AHA) and the Restaurant & Catering Association (RCA) of Tasmania – wants more than just a Minister for Hospitality.

THA General Manager Steve Old said the new Association had met with all political parties in the lead-up to the March State election.

“We are extremely pleased that the Tasmanian Government has already delivered a Minister for Hospitality and committed to its long-term future under a Labor Government,” Mr Old said.

“This Cabinet position has now been given support by the Greens’ Nick McKim post the March 2010 election and we have a strong commitment from Will Hodgman and the Liberal Party that the Hospitality Industry will have a very strong voice in Cabinet should they be elected and they will look to say more on this as we get closer to an election.

“But we also want future governments to work with the THA on any and all industry issues.

“This includes tax incentives for industry education and training that are outcome based.

“The THA wants the Government to approve a Pilot Program to allow casuals in the industry to access training and the employers to be eligible for funding assistance from the Federal Government.”

The Minister for Hospitality Michelle O’Byrne today officially launched the Tasmanian Hospitality Association, the new representative body of the Tasmanian hospitality industry.

THA General Manager Steve Old said this was another first for the Australian hospitality industry.

“Tasmania is the first State to combine its industry representative groups into one body which makes for an even stronger industry voice,” Mr Old said.

“Tasmania was the first State to secure a Minister for Hospitality, announced in October.

“Tasmania was the first State to form Australia’s first Hotel Industry Association – in 1839 – some 170 years ago.”

Mr Old said the aims of the THA were straightforward – “Excellence in Hospitality”.

“The THA is dedicated to delivering the best service in Australia to all Tasmanians and tourists who visit our island state.

“Hospitality is the engine room of the tourism industry - in Tasmania; we employ more than 23,000 people.

“The Tasmanian hospitality industry delivers \$1.29 billion in wages to the Tasmanian economy.

“The THA is dedicated to ensuring that all staff are trained at the highest level of skills. We will work with the Government to deliver the best skills training platforms to all hospitality staff.

“The THA recognises the need to work with the Tasmanian public so that people understand and appreciate the importance of responsible consumption of alcohol.

“The THA will educate its patrons – local, interstate and international - to further Tasmania’s fine reputation for food, beer and wine and their enjoyment together.”

Mr Old said the THA will show leadership in:

- Industry standards - we will be sustainable, clean & green
- Representing our members
- Setting our industry policies; and
- Education and training for our staff industry and Tasmanian public.”

Mr Old said the THA will present several key principles, including:

- Sustainable business environment for hotels/restaurants
- Competitive
- Free enterprise
- Transparency
- Level playing field
- Evidence-based policy

- **For more information, contact: Steve Old 0418 363 566**