

Drakes Supermarkets Unveils Key Insights and Commemorates Supplier Excellence at the 2023 Annual Conference in Port Douglas

Port Douglas, 11th October to 15th October 2023 – For the 15th year, South Australian company Drakes Supermarkets once again set the stage for a grand affair, rolling out the red carpet in Queensland's picturesque paradise, Port Douglas. This year's invitation-only event hosted by the family-owned business, brought together an exclusive group of supplier partners to acquire firsthand insights into the supermarket chain's plans for the following year, directly from the people at the helm; the central focus was on 2022/2023 financial year.

Drakes Supermarkets Executive team, supplier partners and their families immersed themselves in a five-day experience at the spectacular Sheraton Mirage Beachfront Resort, Port Douglas. The official Welcome Dinner was hosted at the resort, providing an opportunity for a relaxing evening poolside.

"As a family business we always try and make our conferences a family affair, with the inclusion of partners and children, it's not only an important part of our Drakes culture, but also important to maintain family values, a conference is no value if you don't take anything home, not only for your business but also for your family life," says Roger Drake, Managing Director of Drakes Supermarkets.

On the second day of the Drakes Conference, supplier delegates gathered for the Business Session, with the first guest speaker of the day, bestselling author and global keynote speaker, Sam Bloom; who moved the audience with her inspiring narrative of resilience and courage, followed by the captivating and witty, Dan Gregory who shared his expertise in business leadership.

A pivotal aspect of the business session involved supplier delegates receiving updates from key Drakes Executive team members, which delved into Drakes' vision and strategy, aimed at fostering mutual success for both suppliers and Drakes businesses. Additionally, the session included an open-mic Q&A, offering transparent dialogue with Managing Director, Roger Drake, Director, John-Paul Drake, General Manager, Bob Soang, and General Manager Merchandise & Marketing, Michael Connolly.

The Supplier Gala Awards holds significant importance within the Conference, providing an opportunity for Drakes to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and contributions of their supplier partners for the previous year. "I would like to thank all of our suppliers, you've been an enormous help over the last 49 years and without you our business would not be able to grow", said Roger Drake.

Winners of the 2023 Drakes Supermarkets Supplier Awards were:

Grocery Account Manager of the Year	Michael Schreurs – Asahi Lifestyle Beverages
Fresh Foods Account Manager of the Year	Brian Clinch (Slape & Sons)
The Guido Manzueto Memorial Award	Inghams Enterprises
Product Launch of the Year	Snack Brands Australia – Samboy Max
\$7M+ Grocery Supplier of the Year	Asahi Lifestyle Beverages
Up to \$7M Grocery Supplier of the Year	Snack Brands Australia
Non Foods Supplier of the Year	Kenvue / Unilever Australia & New Zealand
Tobacco Supplier of the Year	Philip Morris Limited
Dairy Supplier of the Year	Fonterra
Frozen Supplier of the Year	Peters Ice Cream
Meat Supplier of the Year	Thomas Foods International
Deli & Seafood Supplier of the Year	Don KRC
Bakery Supplier of the Year	Yarrows the Bakers
Produce Supplier of the Year	Perfection Fresh Australia
Ready to Eat Supplier of the Year	Enzo's At Home
General Merchandise Supplier of the Year	Jade Tree Enterprises
Support Services Supplier of the Year	MJ Mahon Transport

About Drakes Supermarkets

In 1974 Roger Drake purchased his first supermarket, a three-laned store named Jack & Jill's which employed only four staff.

Today, Drakes Supermarkets is the largest independent grocery retailer in Australia and specialises in supermarket retailing. Operating in over 65 stores across South Australia and Queensland, the company now has an annual turnover in excess of \$1 billion and employs over 6,000 staff nationally.

The company's strength lies in operating on the principles of a family business and supporting local manufacturers and suppliers. Drakes Supermarkets has kept its focus on the important aspects of the business. THE CUSTOMER. This is the company's competitive edge, along with its family values and Australian heritage.

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