



For Immediate Release
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Drakes golden Gala celebrating 50 years of success and excellence

On Saturday 13th April, Drakes hosted an exclusive 50th anniversary Gala dinner at the Adelaide Convention Centre, situated on the scenic Riverbank in Adelaide. The significant milestone was celebrated in grand style, where every detail sparkled with opulent gold accents. With a distinguished guest list of 900, including valued suppliers and staff, the stage was set for an evening of grand festivities.

The Premier of South Australia, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP addressed the room highlighting the significance of Roger Drake & the Drakes business; followed by Drakes General Manager, Bob Soang who presented on behalf of the company & the many staff, sharing some remarkable stories over the years. John-Paul Drake also honored his father on stage on behalf of the family & future generations; before Phil Shayler, Operations Manager & longest serving employee of Drakes presented Roger Drake with his 50 Year Service Badge, together with a 50 Year plaque representing the 5 decades of the Drakes business from its humble beginnings in 1974 to 2024. All in the room raised a toast to Roger Drake on his service to the supermarket retail industry, sharing fond memories and reflecting on the remarkable evolution of Drakes.

Guests also were treated to a three-course meal whilst enjoying a lineup of special guests that left an unforgettable impression, including renowned Australian violinist, Sally Cooper. Australian Icon Delta Goodrem then graced the stage with a captivating performance, which had guests on their feet, dancing and singing along, creating an infectious energy that heightened the celebratory atmosphere.

As the night unfolded, the celebrations continued with an after-party like no other, where guests continued to dance the night away in celebration of this momentous occasion.

This evening served not only as a celebration of all our past achievements as a business, but also as testament to the bright future ahead. As Drakes venture into the next 50 years, we do so with thanks to all our suppliers, our dedicated staff and most importantly our valued customers who continue to support an Australian family owned and operated business; said Roger Drake.

- ENDS -

View official Gala photos [here](#)

About Drakes

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

Today, Drakes Supermarkets is the largest independent grocery retailer in Australia and specialises in supermarket retailing. Operating 67 stores across South Australia and Queensland, the company now has an annual turnover well 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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