

**For Immediate Release  
October 2025**

## **Drakes Supermarkets Hosts 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Supplier Conference in Port Douglas**

Port Douglas, 8<sup>th</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – Drakes Supermarkets hosted its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Supplier Conference at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, set on the iconic Four Mile Beach. The exclusive five-day event brought together Drakes Executives, valued supplier partners and their families, for a mix of business, entertainment and relaxation in one of Australia's most stunning tropical settings.

The conference opened with a Sip & Dip poolside welcome dinner at the picturesque Mirage Resort, where guests enjoyed food, drinks and live entertainment. The evening ended with a spectacular fireworks display lighting up the night sky, setting the tone for the exciting days ahead.

"Drakes' success only exists because of the strength of the relationships we have with our supplier partners. It's not luck, it's not good timing – it's partnership. The Drakes Supplier Conference is about celebrating these relationships with not just the people we do business with, but with their families as well," said John-Paul Drake, Director of Drakes Supermarkets.

Day two featured a business session led by Drakes Executives, who shared an overview of the company's achievements over the past year and outlined key plans for the year ahead. Guests were inspired by Olympic gold medalist Steven Bradbury and mathematician, comedian and author Adam Spencer. A highlight of the session was the open mic Q&A, which allowed suppliers to engage directly with Drakes Executives in a transparent and candid forum. The session ended on a high note with a hypnosis comedy show by Haiming Jiang.

The Supplier Gala Awards Dinner, presented in an elegant black and white theme, celebrated the achievements of the Drakes' suppliers and acknowledged their commitment to the Drakes business. Guests were also treated to an unforgettable performance by renowned Australian music ensemble The Ten Tenors.

"We are extremely grateful to our suppliers for taking the time to attend our conference. Widely recognised within the industry as one of the most informative, open, and honest events, it's an opportunity for the Drakes team to share valuable insights and outline our future direction," said Roger Drake, Managing Director.

"As a proud family-owned business, we're especially pleased that our conference welcomes not only our valued suppliers, but their families as well. It sold out this year; so, I would recommend suppliers to register early as it is the best value conference you will ever attend!".

## Winners of the 2025 Drakes Supermarkets Supplier Awards:

Grocery Account Manager of the Year	Jason Knowles - McCains Foods Australia Pty Ltd
Fresh Foods Account Manager of the Year	Daniel Mazurke - Tip Top Bakeries
The Guido Manzueto Memorial Award	Andrew Spriggs - Dons Smallgoods
Product Launch of the Year	Solo Energy
Frozen Supplier of the Year	McCains Foods Australia Pty Ltd
Dairy Supplier of the Year	Dons Smallgoods Pty Ltd
Tobacco Supplier of the Year	Imperial Brands Australasia
General Merchandise Supplier of the Year	Energizer Australia
Non Foods Supplier of the Year	Real Pet Food Company
\$8M+ Supplier of the Year	Asahi Beverages
\$4 to \$8M Supplier of the Year	Mars Wrigley
Non Fresh up to \$4M Supplier of the Year	Vittoria Coffee
Ready to Eat Supplier of the Year	JL King & Co
Produce Supplier of the Year	Mitolo Family Farms
Bakery Supplier of the Year	Riviera Bakery
Deli & Seafood Supplier of the Year	Inghams Enterprises
Meat Supplier of the Year	Slope & Sons
Support Services Supplier of the Year	Jarvis Marketing

## 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 69 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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