



Media Release

2018 AHA (Vic) State Awards for Excellence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The winners of the 2018 Australian Hotels Association (Vic) State Awards for Excellence were announced at a gala dinner held on Tuesday 20th November at The Palladium at Crown. The finalists and winners were honoured at the ceremony in front of 1130 guests and professionals of the hotel industry.

The AHA (Vic) State Awards for Excellence program was established in the late 1980s to recognise hotels and pubs in Victoria that demonstrate excellence across a range of categories.

The Overall Hotel of the Year (Metropolitan) was awarded to Hophaus Bier Bar Grill, while Oscars Hotel and Café Bar in Ballarat was awarded Overall Hotel of the Year (Regional). Best Pub Restaurant (Metropolitan) was won by Zagame's Berwick while Yea Peppercorn Hotel was awarded Best Pub Restaurant (Regional). The hotly contested individual award category of Chef of the Year was awarded to Chris Bonello from MPD Steak Kitchen, Zagame's Berwick, whilst Francis Deegan from Cardinia Park Hotel was acknowledged as the Emerging Leader of the Year. This year, both Jasmin Fleming from Watergarden's Hotel and Daniel Foley from Red Lion Hotel were recognised for their Excellence in Service.

In its third year, the popular People's Choice Award was available to all 123 nominees. We received an astonishing 5540 votes via the text line, which is more than three times the amount of votes received last year. Only 28 votes separated first from second place. Congratulations to the Grand Hotel Warrandyte on being the winner of 2018 AHA (Vic) People's Choice Award!

The evening's coveted Nikakis Award, which was established in 1997 in memory of Nick Nikakis, "recognising an individual or organisation who by their sustained performance and commitment serve as an inspiration to all in the industry", was awarded to **Steve and Viv Phelan from the Flowerdale Hotel**. Steve and Viv Phelan are the quintessential country publicans. For over 17 years these two people have faced responsibilities far beyond that of simply running a business together. Their pub is not only at the heart of their town but it was in fact the lifesaving soul of a small township.

During the tragedy of Black Saturday in 2009, Steve and Viv turned their bistro and front bar in to a triage for locals. Their first instinct when the fire was footsteps away from the pub door was to protect their neighbours, their customers, rather than self-preservation, this is far more than just being community minded. Post the tragedy, The Flowerdale Hotel won the award for Outstanding Community Service and Achievement at the Victorian State Awards for Excellence and then continued on to win the same award at the National Awards for Excellence the following year, the most community minded hotel in Australia.

The complete list of the 2018 AHA (Vic) State Awards for Excellence Finalist and Winners follows this release.

Photos of the winners are available from 9:00 AM Wednesday 21st November 2018, and all additional photos from the night, by 6:00 PM.

To access the photos click [here](#) and enter the password **ahavic2018** when prompted.

For all Media enquiries please contact: Kimberley Malcolm – 0447 558 478

2018 STATE AWARDS FOR *Excellence*



TUESDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 2018 • THE PALLADIUM AT CROWN

Finalists

Winner

Nikakis Award

Steve & Viv Phelan (Flowerdale Hotel)

Overall Performance

Overall Hotel of the Year – Regional

Carlton & United Breweries

The Grovedale Hotel
 Oscars Hotel (Ballarat)
 Queenscliffe Brewhouse
 Windermere Hotel
 Zagame's Ballarat Hotel

Oscars Hotel (Ballarat)

Overall Hotel of the Year - Metropolitan

Carlton & United Breweries

Hophaus Bier Bar Grill (Southbank)
 Platform 28 (Docklands)
 Taylors Lakes Hotel
 Watergardens Hotel (Taylors Lakes)
 Woolshed (Docklands)

Hophaus Bier Bar Grill (Southbank)

Individual Employee Awards

Chef of the Year (CV required)

PFD Food Services

Chris Bonello - MPD Steak Kitchen, Zagame's Hotel Berwick
 Matthew Macartney - Village Belle Hotel (St Kilda)
 Simon Tarlington - Railway Hotel (Windsor)

Chris Bonello - MPD Steak Kitchen, Zagame's Hotel Berwick

Excellence in Service

Holmesglen

Daniel Foley - Red Lion Hotel (Ballarat)
 Di Jones - Highways (Springvale)
 Jai Rapson - The Middle Hotel (Korumburra)
 Jasmine Flemming - Watergardens Hotel (Taylors Lakes)
 Jason Bentley - The Creekside Hotel (Warracknabeal)
 Laura Luxton - Woolshed (Docklands)
 Lee Barclay - Village Green Hotel (Mulgrave)

Jasmine Flemming - Watergardens Hotel (Taylors Lakes)
 Daniel Foley - Red Lion Hotel (Ballarat)

Emerging Leader of the Year (CV required)

William Angliss Institute

Francis Degan - Cardinia Park Hotel (Beaconsfield)
 James Iriyadi - The Glasshouse Caulfield
 Tregan Dickson - Red Lion Hotel (Ballarat)

Francis Degan - Cardinia Park Hotel (Beaconsfield)

Dining Awards

Burger of the Year

Adroit Insurance and Risk

American Hotel (Echuca)
 Beer DeLuxe Fed Square (Melbourne)
 Blue Duck Hotel (Ararat)
 Grand Hotel Warrandyte
 Grosvenor Hotel (St Kilda East)
 Hophaus Bier Bar Grill (Southbank)
 Kelly's Hotel (Cranbourne)
 The Cheeky Squire (Frankston)
 The Pumphouse Hotel (Fitzroy)
 The Royal Standard Hotel (Toora)

The Pumphouse Hotel (Fitzroy)

**Finalists****Winner****Best Casual Dining - Regional**

Coca Cola Amatil

American Hotel (Echuca)
 Central Hotel (Lakes Entrance)
 Country Club Hotel (Yea)
 Oscars Hotel (Ballarat)
 Queenscliff Brewhouse
 San Remo Hotel-Motel
 The Creekside Hotel (Warracknabeal)
 The Middle Hotel (Korumburra)
 The Royal Standard Hotel (Toora)
 Windermere Hotel

Oscars Hotel (Ballarat)

Best Casual Dining - Metropolitan

Coca Cola Amatil

Cardinia Park Hotel (Beaconsfield)
 Clifton Hill Brewpub
 Glenferrie Hotel (Hawthorn)
 Grand Hotel Warrandyte
 Hallam Hotel
 Platform 28 (Docklands)
 Queensberry Hotel (Carlton)
 Rosstown Hotel (Carnegie)
 Taylors Lakes Hotel
 Temperance Hotel (South Yarra)

Cardinia Park Hotel (Beaconsfield)

Best Family Dining

Rhinoplay

Castello's Pakenham Hotel
 Flinders Hotel
 Ivanhoe Hotel
 Long Beach Hotel (Chelsea)
 The Croydon Hotel
 The Dava Hotel (Mount Martha)
 The Glasshouse Caulfield
 The Park Hotel (Ballarat)
 Zagame's Ballarat Hotel
 Zagame's Boronia Club Hotel

Zagame's Boronia Club Hotel

Best Pub Restaurant - Regional

Vetron Bepoz

Sawyers Arms Tavern (Geelong)
 The Grovedale Hotel
 Yea Peppercorn Hotel

Yea Peppercorn Hotel

Best Pub Restaurant - Metropolitan

Asahi Premium Beverages

Black Horse Hotel (Bulla)
 Bridge Inn Hotel (Mernda)
 Hophaus Bier Bar Grill (Southbank)
 MPD Steak Kitchen, Zagame's Berwick
 Mr McCracken (Essendon Fields)
 O'Connell's Centenary Hotel (South Melbourne)
 Platform 28 (Docklands)
 Railway Hotel (Windsor)
 The Lincoln Hotel (Carlton)
 The Malvern Hotel
 True South (Black Rock)

MPD Steak Kitchen, Zagame's Berwick

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Finalists

Winner

Best Pub Bar - Regional

Asahi Premium Beverages

American Hotel (Echuca)
Apollo Bay Hotel Great Ocean Road
Austral Top Pub (Korumburra)
Happy Valley Hotel (Ovens)
San Remo Hotel-Motel
Somerville Hotel
The Park Hotel (Ballarat)
Western Hotel (Ballarat)

Apollo Bay Hotel Great Ocean Road

Best Pub Bar - Metropolitan

Lion Beer Australia

Cross Keys Hotel (Essendon)
Garden State Hotel (Melbourne)
Queensberry Hotel (Carlton)
Taylors Lakes Hotel
Temperance Hotel (South Yarra)
The Elsternwick Hotel
The Lincoln Hotel (Carlton)
The Quiet Man Irish Pub (Flemington)
Village Belle Hotel (St Kilda)
Woolshed (Docklands)

Woolshed (Docklands)

Gaming & Wagering Awards

Best PubTAB - Regional

Tabcorp

Austral Top Pub (Korumburra)
San Remo Hotel-Motel
The Grovedale Hotel
The Park Hotel (Ballarat)
Western Hotel (Ballarat)
Zagame's Ballarat Hotel

Zagame's Ballarat Hotel

Best PubTAB - Metropolitan

Tabcorp

Bridge Inn Hotel (Mernda)
Castello's Pakenham Hotel
Cross Keys Hotel (Essendon)
Long Beach Hotel (Chelsea)
Newmarket Tavern
Taylors Lakes Hotel
The Dava Hotel (Mount Martha)
Watergardens Hotel (Taylors Lakes)

Watergardens Hotel (Taylors Lakes)

Best Gaming Venue - with 50 machines or less - Regional

Tabcorp Gaming Solutions

Somerville Hotel
The Blue Bell Hotel (Wendouree)
The Foundry Hotel (Bendigo)
The Middle Hotel (Korumburra)
Valley Inn Hotel (Geelong)
Victoria Hotel (Shepparton)
Windermere Hotel

Somerville Hotel

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Finalists**Winner****Best Gaming Venue - with 50 machines or less - Metropolitan**

Tabcorp Gaming Solutions

Cross Keys Hotel (Essendon)
Grosvenor Hotel (St Kilda East)
Long Beach Hotel (Chelsea)
St Albans Hotel
The Clayton Hotel
The Dava Hotel (Mount Martha)

The Dava Hotel (Mount Martha)

Best Gaming Venue - with 51 machines or more - Regional

Tabcorp Gaming Solutions

Steeple (Mornington)
The Grovedale Hotel
Zagame's Ballarat Hotel

Zagame's Ballarat Hotel

Best Gaming Venue - with 51 machines or more - Metropolitan

Tabcorp Gaming Solutions

Bridge Inn Hotel (Mernda)
Castello's Pakenham Hotel
Excelsior Hotel (Thomastown)
Hallam Hotel
Highways (Springvale)
Taylors Lakes Hotel
The Croydon Hotel
Watergardens Hotel (Taylors Lakes)
Welcome Stranger Hotel (Melbourne)
Zagame's Boronia Club Hotel

Bridge Inn Hotel (Mernda)

Best Keno Venue - Regional

Tabcorp - Keno

The Middle Hotel (Korumburra)
Windermere Hotel

Windermere Hotel

Best Keno Venue - Metropolitan

Tabcorp - Keno

Coolaroo Hotel
Highways (Springvale)
Newmarket Tavern
Nixon Hotel (Docklands)
The Golden Nugget (Melbourne)
Welcome Stranger Hotel (Melbourne)

Welcome Stranger Hotel (Melbourne)

General Awards**Best Outdoor Experience**

British American Tobacco Australia

American Hotel (Echuca)
Bells Hotel (South Melbourne)
Country Club Hotel (Yea)
Glenferrie Hotel (Hawthorn)
Queensberry Hotel (Carlton)
Railway Club Hotel & Chase Nightclub (Seymour)
The Precinct Hotel (Richmond)
Village Belle Hotel (St Kilda)
Woolshed (Docklands)

The Precinct Hotel (Richmond)

**Finalists****Winner****Best Function and Event Space**

Strand Hospitality Furniture

Garden State Hotel (Melbourne)
 Hotel Brighton
 Oscars Hotel (Ballarat)
 Platform 28 (Docklands)
 Taylors Lakes Hotel
 The Pumphouse Hotel (Fitzroy)
 Woolshed (Docklands)
 Zagame's Caulfield

Platform 28 Docklands

Best Rooftop Experience

Bank of Melbourne

American Hotel (Echuca)
 Corner Hotel (Richmond)
 Platform 28 (Docklands)
 The Albion (South Melbourne)
 The Provincial Hotel (Fitzroy)
 Transit Rooftop Bar (Melbourne)

The Albion (South Melbourne)

Best Hotel - Pub Style Accommodation

Hostplus

Coolaroo Hotel
 Glenferrie Hotel (Hawthorn)
 Marlo Hotel
 Middle Park Hotel
 Oscars Hotel (Ballarat)
 Yea Peppercorn Hotel

Glenferrie Hotel (Hawthorn)

Best Innovative Retail Space

Australian Liquor Marketers

Great Ocean Road Brewhouse (Apollo Bay)
 Grosvenor Hotel (St Kilda East)
 Old England Hotel (Heidelberg)
 Queenscliff Brewhouse

Queenscliff Brewhouse
 Old England Hotel (Heidelberg)

Best Sports Bar - Regional

FOXTEL

San Remo Hotel-Motel
 The Foundry Hotel (Bendigo)
 The Grovedale Hotel
 Valley Inn Hotel (Geelong)

The Grovedale Hotel

Best Sports Bar - Metropolitan

FOXTEL

Castello's Pakenham Hotel
 Chelsea Heights Hotel
 Imperial Hotel (Melbourne)
 Lower Plenty Hotel
 Sandbelt Hotel (Moorabbin)
 Taylors Lakes Hotel
 The Crafty Squire (Melbourne)
 Turf Sports Bar and Grill (Melbourne)

Taylors Lakes Hotel

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	Finalists	Winner
Best Specialty Bar Diageo Australia	Clifton Hill Brewpub Elephant & Wheelbarrow (Melbourne) Hophaus Bier Bar Grill (Southbank) Irish Murphy's Ballarat P.J. O'Brien's (Melbourne) Queenscliff Brewhouse The Quiet Man Irish Pub (Flemington)	Hophaus Bier Bar Grill (Southbank)
Best Presented Beer Lancer Beer Systems	Clifton Hill Brewpub Grand Hotel Warrandyte Hophaus Bier Bar Grill (Southbank) Kelly's Hotel (Cranbourne) Platform 28 (Docklands) The Cheeky Squire (Frankston) The Lincoln Hotel (Carlton) The Quiet Man Irish Pub (Flemington) Young & Jackson Hotel (Melbourne)	Clifton Hill Brewpub Hophaus Bier Bar Grill (Southbank)
Best Environmental Initiative AHA (Vic)		Lord of the Isles (Geelong)
Best Hotel Accommodation Travel Design Group	The Cheeky Squire (Frankston) Nightcap at Matthew Flinders Hotel The Rye Hotel Taylors Lakes Hotel	Taylors Lakes Hotel
Best Redeveloped Hotel - Food & Beverage United Refrigeration	Country Club Hotel (Yea) Flinders Hotel Irymple Hotel The Pumphouse Hotel (Fitzroy) Transport Public Bar (Melbourne) Woolshed (Docklands)	Country Club Hotel (Yea)
Best Redeveloped Hotel - Gaming Bank of Melbourne	Bells Hotel (South Melbourne) Hallam Hotel Richmond Social The Cheeky Squire (Frankston) The Foundry Hotel (Bendigo) Village Belle Hotel (St Kilda) Zagame's Ballarat Hotel	Richmond Social
Best Hotel Group Operator H&L Australia	ALH Group Pegasus Leisure Group Sand Hill Road Zagame Corporation	Sand Hill Road

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Finalists**Winner****Outstanding Achievement in Training**

AVTES

Garden State Hotel (Melbourne)
Kelly's Hotel (Cranbourne)
The Golden Fleece (Melton)
True South (Black Rock)
Zagame's Reservoir

Zagame's Reservoir

Performance Awards**People's Choice Award**

Treasury Wine Estates

Cardinia Park Hotel (Beaconsfield)
Grand Hotel Warrandyte
Happy Valley Hotel (Ovens)
Park Hotel (Ballarat)
Royal Standard Hotel (Toora)

Grand Hotel Warrandyte

Best Marketed Hotel

Hostplus

Fargo and Co (Richmond)
Kelly's Hotel (Cranbourne)
Platform 28 (Docklands)
Queensberry Hotel (Carlton)
The Dava Hotel (Mount Martha)
The Glasshouse Caulfield
The Quiet Man Irish Pub (Flemington)
Woolshed (Docklands)

Fargo and Co (Richmond)

Best Live Entertainment Venue

APRA AMCOS

Corner Hotel (Richmond)
Elephant & Wheelbarrow (Melbourne)
P.J. O'Brien's (Melbourne)
The Croxton Bandroom (Thornbury)
The Westernport Hotel (San Remo)
Village Green Hotel (Mulgrave)

Corner Hotel (Richmond)

Heart Of The Community

IGT Austalia

College Lawn Hotel (Prahran)
Irymple Hotel
Kelly's (Cranbourne)
The Grand Hotel (Frankston)

Kelly's Motor Club Hotel (Cranbourne)