



PRESS RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN ORGANIC WINNERS CELEBRATE AT ANNUAL AWARDS

Australian Organic releases winners list post Annual Awards

[Australian Organic](#), Australia's leading organic industry body, last week hosted their third annual Australian Organic Awards for Excellence, hosted by former Australian World Champion Swimmer Matt Welsh; and packed with some of the countries most recognised and leading personalities within the certified organic community.

The Australian Organic Awards are a chance for individuals and businesses within the certified organic industry to come together and celebrate their achievements; and be recognised for their hard work and commitment to the industry.

'This year we were blown away with the popularity of our awards night' comments Australian Organic CEO Mr. Paul Stadhams, 'our event was sold out within 3 days of the tickets going on sale and we had an overwhelming response to award submissions this year. I think this is a real testament to the growth and popularity of certified organics across Australia'.

The Australian Organic industry is worth over **\$1.8billion** to the Australian economy; a figure that grows annually. In addition there has been a **15% growth** of Australian certified products exported into international markets; allowing Australian Organic to arguably claim their famous 'Bud' logo as one of the most popular and recognised in the world.

'There is a significant and undeniable growth in the popularity of organic products here and overseas', comments Mr. Stadhams, 'and now more than ever as a leading body in the industry, we are making it a priority that all Australians understand what makes an organic product just that – organic'.

The Australian Organic Awards were held at the popular The Farm Café in Abbotsford, Melbourne where a farm shed was recreated into a glamorous yet 'back to basics' venue taking those present back to where organics first came from, the land.

'We were incredibly impressed with the location of the Awards this year' continues Mr. Stadhams, 'We wanted to find a venue that really showcased a rural and real organic-like environment.'

The Australian Organic Awards presented 11 awards during the night and added an additional two individuals to their coveted Hall of Fame list.



'It was an amazing event; and we are so thrilled that our Awards are getting bigger and more popular each year', continues Mr. Stadhams, 'The team at Australian Organic work hard throughout the year to be able to give publicity and promotion to our clients, and our Awards are a fantastic way to close out the year and celebrate not only the winners but the Australian certified organic industry as a whole'.

Australian Organic will be opening registration for their 2017 Awards June next year.

<https://www.facebook.com/AustOrganicLtd> | <https://www.instagram.com/australianorganic/>

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For more information visit: <http://austorganic.com/aoaa-2016-winners/>



Australian Organic Awards – List of Winners:

1. The Australian Organic Reader's Choice Product of the Year 2016 (sponsored by ABC Organic Gardener Magazine)

Winner: [Seasol International Pty Ltd](#)

Location: Bayswater, VIC

2. The Australian Organic Chairman's Award 2016

Winner: [Benalla Mushrooms](#)

Location: Benalla, VIC

3. Australian Organic Hall of Fame 2016

Winners: Roger Pitt (Co-Owner and Executive Director of [Kadac Pty Ltd](#)), Howard Rubin (Owner of [The Koala Tea Company](#))

4. Australian Organic Best Certified Product 2016 (Non-food)

Winner: [Nutrisoil Liquid Biological Fertiliser](#)

Location: Baranduda, VIC

The judges were impressed by the long term dedication of Nutrisoil to their product and absolute commitment to producing healthy, living soils, as well as to the organic industry. They were early adopters of internet technology to advertise their product and set up their business to directly benefit farmers and provide knowledge about how their product is produced, as well as open days, monthly Biological Farming Roundtables and a new business based on Soil Restoration Farming. It is not just about the product but about the future of farming as a whole and being part of an industry that delivers nutrient rich food.

5. Australian Organic Best Certified Product 2016 (Food)

Winner: [Barambah Organics](#)

Location: Oxley, QLD

Barambah Organics stood out not just for its excellent product but also for its commitment to service, to their customers, staff, suppliers and the wider community. Particularly in their



regular contributions to community events and individuals in need of help. The judges also noted recognition of their exemplary food safety standards. Their commitment to organics is displayed by their longevity as well as the range and quality of organic products produced and distributed all over Australia.

6. Australian Organic Best Certified Product of the Year 2016 (Beverage)

Winner: [Daylesford and Hepburn Mineral Springs Co. Organics Range](#)

Location: Daylesford, VIC

The Daylesford and Hepburn Mineral Springs Co. stood out because of a very real commitment to innovation and strong environmental practices, in both the production of their organic drinks as well as their sustainable packaging. Judges also noted their involvement in the local community and commitment to sustainable business models.

7. Australian Organic Best Certified Product of the Year 2016 (Cosmetic)

Winner: [Savi, Soothe – All Skin Types, Savi Organics](#)

Location: Margaret River, WA

Savi Australia achieved the award for best cosmetic for its endeavours in using organic Australian products wherever possible as well as its commitment to research and constant striving to make their products as good as possible. Their commitment to organics is seen in their diligence in vetting all their suppliers to ensure only high quality and truly certified organic and environmentally friendly ingredients are used. The judges also noted the way the local community was involved trialling and testing product.

8. Australian Organic Retailer of the Year 2016

Winner: [Garden Organics](#)

Location: Melbourne, VIC

Despite many strong contenders the judges found it hard to go past this certified organic retailer, Garden Organics. Not only do they sell only certified organic fresh products but their business is also certified, and has been for 14 years. Their commitment to the Organic Industry is very strong, as is their care and respect for their staff, suppliers, customers and their local community. They donate surplus food, raise money for important not-for-profits as well as donating produce to local groups and more.



9. Australian Organic Business of the Year 2016

Winner: [Eclipse Organics](#)

Location: Richmond, NSW

Eclipse Organics, the winner of the Business of the Year fulfilled every criteria and more. From the involvement of customers and community in product and display development to the focus on the well-being of employees, the business's enormous contribution to local community, as well as to organics in their 215 certified organic products, Eclipse Organics richly deserved the award.

10. Australian Organic Export Market Leader Award 2016

Winner: [Arcadian & Natural Meat Co.](#)

Location: Toowoomba, QLD

Arcadian Organic & Natural Meat Co. is one of the world's largest organic meat exporters and they have worked hard and innovatively to have their brands accepted and selling well into 9 different countries. All certified organic meat is sourced from Australian family farms and labelled as such demonstrating transparency to overseas markets. The judges commended their strong partnerships with their organic producers.

11. Australian Organic Young Organic Leader Award 2016

Winner: [Cocolife Australia](#)

Location: Burleigh Heads, QLD

This young organic leader has developed a range of exciting high quality organic coconut products that now have sales all over Australia. At the same time she encourages her customers to lead healthy lives with recipes and tips, as well as contributing 1% of her sales to environmental initiatives and through speaking engagements promotes organics and organic lifestyles. All packaging is minimised and recyclable.

The judges congratulate Bernadette on achieving so much in a relatively short time.

12. Australian Organic Farmer of the Year Award 2016

Winner: [Murray River Organics](#)

Location: Murray River, NSW



Murray River Organics was chosen as farmer of the year because of their dedication to organics on a very large scale. Not only does their certified organic business convert distressed vineyards in the Sunraysia region to organic dried fruit resulting in more than 4,300 acres of organic farmland, but they also process and package their own fruit in organic facilities in Mildura and Dandenong. They are strongly committed to environmental sustainability but they also work towards improving the lives of people both locally and overseas through their social commitments.