



MEDIA RELEASE

Hail the champions of organics: The Annual Awards for Excellence winners announced

November 2017 – Australia’s largest and most recognised industry powerhouse for organics, Australian Organic Ltd (AOL), hosted its 4th Annual Awards for Excellence on Friday 17th November, at The National Wine Centre in Adelaide.

Coming together as an industry to celebrate the contribution Australia’s leading certified businesses make to the organic industry – and in turn to the Australian economy and our environment – the awards were attended by Former Senator Nick Xenophon, who has been a longtime supporter of the organics industry.

The Annual Awards for Excellence recognises finalists from all over the country and across a broad variety of categories including cosmetics, business, innovation, beverage and food. This year, the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science sponsored the Innovative Product of the Year Category and for the first time ever, AOL launched a new category for Certified Organic wine of the Year.

A national survey conducted last year revealed that organic food has a firm foothold in Aussie shopping baskets, with more than two out of three households purchasing organic products in the last year. Rhiannon Christie, Communications and Marketing Manager of Australian Organic, believes this is a key contributing factor to the scale and quality of produce we are experiencing in Australia right now.

“The industry is alive and booming. Earlier this year we revealed our country officially holds the largest amount of organically managed farmland in the world at 53%, so it’s no surprise that the calibre of entrants was at an all-time high this year”, said Christie.

Having recently announced a new structure within the organics industry to become a stand-alone, member owned, not-for-profit industry services group, this year was particularly special for AOL as it marks 30 years since the group was established (originally formed as Biological Farmers of Australia Co-Op).

“We are thrilled about the launch of the new structure because it will allow us to unify under one national standard through industry collaboration. It means we can continue to educate consumers on the benefits of organics and truly champion the industry more broadly through lobbying, advocacy and inclusion”, said General Manager Australian Organic, Emily Arnold.

The 2017 Annual Awards for Excellence winners were:

- Young Organic Leader - Daniel Quattrocchi of Monika’s Organics
- Food Product of the Year - Organic Hotdogs (Cleaver's)
- Export Market Leader – Hakubaku



- Cosmetic of the Year - Aika Skincare Range (Aika Wellness)
- Non-Alcoholic Beverage of the Year - Organic Biodegradable Nespresso Capsules (Republica Organic)
- Alcoholic Beverage of the Year - Antipodes Gin Co
- Innovative Product of the Year - Smoothie Bombs
- Retailer of the Year - Sherwood Road Organic Meats
- Farmer of the Year - Daniel and Holly Dzungza
- Non-Food Product of the Year - Slasher Organic Weedkiller
- Organic Business of The Year - TOM Organic
- Certified Organic Wine of the Year – 2016 Angove Shiraz Cabernet

For a full list of award finalists per category, please see below. For more information or to interview the winners, please contact:

Annica Robertson/Bianca Cowie

Mkt. Communications

p: 03 9533 2699

e: annica@mktcommunications.com.au / bianca@mktcommunications.com.au

-ends-

About Australian Organic Ltd. (AO)

Australian Organic has played a major role in the organic industry since 1987. It is Australia's member owned, not for profit, industry services group.

The Australian Organic Market Report is a highly respected annual publication commissioned by Australian Organic Ltd. that tracks trends in the Australian organic marketplace. This year's Report incorporates independent research by University of New England, Mobium Group, Australian Bureau of Statistics and other sources.

www.austorganic.com



FINALISTS 2017 AUSTRALIAN ORGANIC ANNUAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Young Organic Leader

1. Ben Horwood (Mulgowie Farming)
2. Daniel Quattrocchi (Monika's Organics)
3. Gregor Pritzlaff (Organic Merchant)

Retailer of the Year

1. Changing Habits
2. Organic Angels
3. Sherwood Road Organic Meats

Farmer of the Year

1. Clayton Kiely (Tamburlaine Organic Wines)
2. Daniel and Holly Dzundza (Penjobe Pastoral)
3. Duncan Harris (Harris Organic Wines)

Export Market Leader

1. Arcadian Organic & Natural Meat Co.
2. Eco-Farms
3. Hakubaku
4. Kalleske Wines

Business of the Year

1. 919 Wines
2. Barambah Organics
3. Bubs Organic
4. Monika's Organics
5. The Bean Alliance
6. The Linen Press
7. Tom Organic
8. Whole Kids

Certified Organic Cosmetic of the Year

1. Aika Skincare Range (Aika Wellness)
2. Extreme Organic Moisture Boost (Vanessa Megan)
3. Little Innoscents Baby Range (Little Innoscents)
4. Nature's Child Baby Range (Nature's Child)
5. The Divine Woman Spa Grade (The Divine Company)
6. zk'in Skincare Range (zk'in Certified Organic Skincare)

Certified Organic Alcoholic Beverage of the Year

1. Gin, Vodka and Espresso Liqueur (Antipodes Gin Co.)
2. Struman's Premium Lager (Struman's Organic Beer Co.)

Certified Organic Non-Alcoholic Beverage of the Year

1. Bodhi Organic Tea Range (Bodhi Organics Pty Ltd)
2. Golden Turmeric Blend (Love Organic Living)
3. Healthy Chef Matcha Green Tea (Healthy Chef)
4. Organic Biodegradable Nespresso Capsules (Republica Organic)
5. Organic Blonde Cola (Soda Press Co.)
6. Organic Merchant Herbal Tea Range (Organic Merchant)

Certified Organic Food Product of the Year

1. Chicken Sausages (Inglewood Poultry Farm Pty Ltd T/A Inglewood Organic)
2. Coconut+ Daily Protein (Activated Nutrients)
3. Freeze-Dried Acai Powder (Amazonia)
4. Good Bones Broth Range (Undivided Food Co.)
5. Loving Earth Dark 72% Chocolate 80g & 30g (Loving Earth)
6. Organic Hotdogs (Cleaver's)
7. Organic Whey Protein Powder (Pro Amino)
8. Pana Chocolate 45g Chocolate Bar Range (Pana Chocolate)

Certified Organic Non-Food Product of the Year

1. Chillsafe (Coolsan)
2. Slasher Organic* Weedkiller (Organic Crop Protectants)

Most Innovative Certified Organic Product of the Year

1. Chillsafe (Coolsan)
2. Coyo Dairy Free Ice Cream Range (Coyo Organic Ice Cream)
3. Mulgowie's Macro Corn Cobbette (Mulgowie Farming)
4. Smoothie Bombs (Nutrition Darling)

¹ Mobium Group's organic survey has tracked the attitudes of Australian consumers toward organic products in five public opinion polls in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. In the survey referenced in this report. In the latest survey, the primary grocery shopper in 1,024 households were polled over a week in June 2016. Roughly half of respondents were female and half were male, spread across all states, with a range of age groups and income profiles. About a third of those surveyed had children under 16 years living at home and 41% had attained or were attaining a university degree. For the statistically minded, the sample reliability at a total survey level was 95% (+/-3.1%), which shows a high degree of reliability.