

# PRESS RELEASE

Monday, 09 September, 2024

## **Australian Culinary Federation (ACF) Celebrates Excellence in the Australian Food Industry at 2024 Awards**

Melbourne, VIC: The Australian Culinary Federation (ACF) proudly celebrated the 2024 ACF Awards during Fine Food Australia in Melbourne, showcasing the immense talent, dedication, and creativity of apprentices, chefs, and culinary students from across Australia. The event highlighted outstanding achievements, made possible through the support of sponsors, partners, and all the incredible competitors.

In her welcome address, ACF President Karen Doyle expressed her gratitude to the competitors and sponsors. *"The level of skill and passion we've seen today is truly inspiring. Every competitor has shown dedication to their craft, and we're immensely grateful to our sponsors who support the development of future food professionals in Australia,"* said President Karen Doyle.

### **Acknowledging Sponsors**

A heartfelt thank you goes to our Principal Partners, Nestle Professional and Moffat, for their invaluable support. We also acknowledge our Partners, Krio Krush, Simplot, Cookers, and Robot Coupe, and the Supporting Sponsors, including Fine Foods, Caterhire, MAK Catering, Food Service Australia, Queen Professional, The Armoury, Community Clubs Victoria, and Le Cordon Bleu, whose contributions helped make this event a success.

### **Competition Sponsors**

Solid Teknics, Kanga Box, Straight to the Source, Food Logic, TAFE NSW, MCEC, Buondi Coffee, Global Hospitality Group, Tropical Fruit Direct, Maggi Professional, Bega, Australian Pork, Rare Medium Academy

## Recognising Excellence in 2024

### The awards recognised exceptional performances across multiple categories:

- Bega National Apprentice Competition:
  - 1st Year Apprentice Winner: Kirra McClenahan (VIC) – Gold Medal
  - 2nd Year Apprentice Winner: Mei Chieng (WA) – Gold Medal
  - Final Year Apprentice Winner: Garam Han (VIC) – Gold Medal
  - Champion Apprentice of the Year: Mei Chieng (WA)
- Most Outstanding Pastry Chef: Remold Fernando (VIC)
  - Remold delivered stunning centrepieces and live dessert creations, earning four Gold Medals and securing his title for the second consecutive year.
- Most Outstanding Apprentice Chef: Neel Sebastian (ACT)
  - Neel's impressive performance saw him take home a Gold and Silver Medal, securing his place as the Most Outstanding Apprentice Chef.
- Most Outstanding Chef: Bivushan Bhandari (VIC)
  - Bivushan's incredible run earned him a Gold Medal and two Silver Medals, crowning him as the Most Outstanding Chef for 2024.
  - Muiawati Jamaluddin (VIC) was awarded one Bronze and one Silver Medal for outstanding efforts across live classes.

### The event also featured remarkable accomplishments in several live challenges:

- Street Food Challenge: Stephen Lunn & Jordan Murphy – Silver Medal
- Lamb, Beef & Veal Open Live Challenge: Rithisha Bhunjun – Silver Medal, Neeraj Yadav – Bronze Medal
- Seafood Open Live Challenge: Mahatma Yandiguna & Alex Farmakis – Bronze Medals
- MAGGI Schnitzel Apprentice Live Challenge: Dilip Shiva – Silver Medal
- Dessert Open Live Challenge: Liam Jones – Bronze Medal
- Buffet Centre Piece: Barbara Porter – Bronze, Louis Lee – Silver
- Petit Four Pralines: Liam Jones – Gold Medal

The ACF extends sincere thanks to all competitors, judges, and sponsors. Special thanks to our Competition Sponsors: Solid Teknics, Kanga Box, Straight to the Source, Food Logic, TAFE NSW, MCEC, Buondi Coffee, Global Hospitality Group, Tropical Fruit Direct, Maggi Professional, Bega, Australian Pork, and Rare Medium Academy. Your contributions made this event a true celebration of talent and dedication in the Australian food industry.

Karen Doyle concluded by saying, "Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this year's awards so special. We look forward to continuing to support and inspire Australia's vibrant food industry."

## About the Australian Culinary Federation

The ACF represents professional chefs, cooks, apprentices, and culinary students across Australia. Committed to fostering education, sustainability, and excellence in the food industry, the ACF plays a vital role in supporting the next generation of food professionals.

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*Disclaimer: If any details are incorrect or need to be amended, please contact Deb at the ACF office.*

