

Drakes Supermarkets Celebrates 50 years of Excellence and Strengthens Supplier Partnerships at the 2024 Annual Conference in Gold Coast

Gold Coast, 9th October to 13th October 2024 – Drakes Supermarkets successfully hosted its 16th annual Supplier Conference at the newest beachfront luxury hotel, Langham Gold Coast! The exclusive event gathered Drakes Executives, valued supplier partners and their families for an immersive experience focused on building business relations and celebrating the company's 50-year legacy.

The five-day conference commenced with an exciting Welcome Party in the Diamond Ballroom at the Langham Conference Centre where attendees were able to mingle and enjoy the evening; before being entertained by Australian singer-songwriter Tones and I.

“As an Australian company, I am a big believer of supporting Australian businesses, and whilst many choose to travel overseas for their conferencing, I am very proud to hold our conferences in Australia, strengthening our countries local businesses and talent,” says Roger Drake, Managing Director.

Throughout the conference, supplier partners engaged in informative sessions designed to foster collaboration and innovation. The Business Session provided an opportunity for Drakes Executives to present key insights into the company's growth trajectory, future initiatives and a comprehensive review of the past year's achievements. Adam Spencer, one of Australia's most respected keynote speakers also presented on a strong focal point for business, the future of artificial intelligence in the workplace.

A key highlight of the business session was the opportunity for suppliers to engage directly with Drakes Executives, encouraging open dialogue and allowing suppliers to ask questions directly to presenters throughout the day.

To conclude the conference, Drakes hosted the Supplier Awards Gala Dinner, a celebratory event recognizing the outstanding contributions and achievements of its supplier partners.

“Whilst we wish to congratulate our award winners; we must also acknowledge all who were nominated for the 2024 Drakes Supplier Awards; and thank all of our supplier partners for their continued support & valued business relationship,” said Roger Drake.

Winners of the 2024 Drakes Supermarkets Supplier Awards:

Grocery Account Manager of the Year	Karlee Cindric – PepsiCo ANZ Kristian Griffiths – Fonterra Australia
Fresh Foods Account Manager of the Year	Aaron Drinkwater
The Guido Manzueto Memorial Award	Warwick Meats
Product Launch of the Year	Yummy Snacks Foods (Federick Street Finest Range) Brunnings Garden Products (Les Burdett Lawn Food)
\$8M+ Supplier of the Year	PepsiCo ANZ
Non Fresh up to \$8M Supplier of the Year	Suntory Oceania
Non Foods Supplier of the Year	The Clorox Company
Tobacco Supplier of the Year	Imperial Brands Australasia
Dairy Supplier of the Year	Fonterra Australia
Frozen Supplier of the Year	Patties Food Group
Meat Supplier of the Year	D.R. Johnston/JBS Australia
Deli & Seafood Supplier of the Year	Don Smallgoods
Bakery Supplier of the Year	Vili's Family Bakery
Produce Supplier of the Year	Yummy Snacks Foods
Ready to Eat Supplier of the Year	Youfoodz
Support Services Supplier of the Year	Arneg Oceania

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 67 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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