

# WineFest 08: another success

*It was an interesting collection of wines, and I always find myself energised by the passion and commitment shown by the students. These encouraging words from Paul Judge, Senior Manager, Agribusiness, Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD), summarise the success of **WineFest 2008**.*



WineFest 2008 held on Monday 26 May 2008 at the NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney gathered together a number of distinguished people

from the hospitality, events and wine industries, the government and the media, along with families and friends of Kenvale College of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

Kenvale College, a non-profit, education and training provider in tourism, hospitality and event management, conducts **WineFest** as part of the academic program of first-year Bachelor of Commerce in Services Marketing-Tourism and Hospitality Management students at the University of NSW. The students work in small teams with individual wineries to plan and mount the exhibition and to conduct guided tastings for invited attendees.

The event was sponsored by DSRD, working with the NSW wine industry to increase trade and consumer awareness of the quality and diversity of the NSW wines. Other major sponsors included the Australian Hotels Association, Tourism Training Australia, and Tourism, Hospitality and Catering Institute of Australia and Hostec.

The panel of speakers highlighted the importance of the collaboration between the government, the industry and the education sectors to maintain the growing profile of Australia as a tourism destination,



providing excellent food, wine and service which contribute to the memorable experience of both international and local visitors.

The panel consisted of Virginia Judge, Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Training, Bruce Tyrell, Managing Director, Tyrell's Wines, and Steve Carfino, Fox Sports Commentator and former Sydney Kings Point Guard. The Master of Ceremony for the evening, Darren Jahn, President of Wine

Communicators of Australia Inc, facilitated the panel discussion.



Ms Isabella Conde, Principal of Kenvale College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, in her Vote of Thanks, acknowledged the NSW government and wine industry for *“for their encouragement and vision in working with us, educators, in one unique event that benefits all involved”*.

The **WineFest** judges this year included Judy Sarris, Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine and Rob Geddes MW, WineStream Media Relations and Marketing Services.

The students were judged based on wine product knowledge and wine marketing stall presentation.

The winners were Ballinacash and Lindsays Woodonga Hill Winery, *Hilltops* (first prize) and Grove Estate Wines, *Hilltops* (second prize). Overall, Mr Geddes recognised that with the calibre of exhibition displays, presentation and knowledge of wines the judges witnessed that evening, everyone was a winner!



For the first time, WineFest was held back to back with a hospitality and tourism careers forum organised by the Australian Hotels Association, in conjunction with the Restaurant and Catering Australia. The forum was attended by career advisers, hospitality VET teachers, LCPs and RICAs,

Kenvale College extends its sincere gratitude to the participating wineries and food sponsors, who made this year's **WineFest** another success!