

Media release



FROM THE MINISTER FOR STATE & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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THREE NEW MELBOURNE FOOD AND WINE LEGENDS INDUCTED

A Heathcote winemaker, two restaurateurs and a Melbourne seafood supplier were today inducted as Melbourne Food and Wine Festival Legends by the Minister for State and Regional Development, John Brumby.

This year's Melbourne Food and Wine Festival Legends are Ron Laughton of Jaspers Hill Winery, restaurateurs Frank and John Van Haandel and Con Andronis of Clamm's Seafood.

Mr Brumby said the awards recognise outstanding Victorian achievements in the areas of food production/education, grape growing or winemaking and the restaurant or food industry.

"It's very important to recognise the people that have made Victoria one of the world's great food and wine destinations," Mr Brumby said.

"Victoria's food and wine industry produces world leading products from the paddock to the plate, led by some of the most innovative and creative people in the world.

"This reputation is a major asset for our \$11 billion tourism industry, especially in areas like food and wine tourism, where winery visits across Victoria generated nearly a half a billion dollars.

"Our food and wine strengths also position us internationally as a sophisticated place to live and work with a great quality of life which attracts more investment and skilled migrants here."

Ron Laughton is a pioneer in the Heathcote wine region which is fast becoming one of Australia's most famous wine producing regions with Jasper Hill's Emily and Georgia's Paddock labels gaining international acclaim. A bio-dynamic winemaker, Mr Laughton is being inducted for his contribution to grape growing and winemaking in Victoria.

Frank and John Van Haandel began with pizza parlours in Warrnambool, then Bendigo and moved to Melbourne in the 1980s establishing Pronto in Chapel Street. The brothers

have continued to create many of Melbourne's finest dining experiences including the Stokehouse, Circa and Longrain and are being inducted for their contribution to Victoria's restaurants and food Industry.

Con Andronis formed Clamm's Fast Fish in 1988 with a fish and chips retail outlet opened in Acland St, St Kilda in 1990. With the business also focussing on wholesale, Clamm's Seafood, as it is now known, has continued to service many of Melbourne's best restaurants and hotels.

The awards were established in 1993 with the latest inductees joining the 70 other legends who range from master winemakers and cheese makers, food suppliers, chefs and restaurateurs to food industry entrepreneurs and food and wine writers, educators and promoters.

Mr Brumby said the Bracks Government strongly supported Victorian the food and wine industry through regional agricultural and tourism infrastructure investment and marketing initiatives like the wine regions of Victoria campaigns.

"The Bracks Government is also a major sponsor of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival as the premier showcase, locally and internationally, for Victoria's great dining experiences and wonderful produce and wine," he said.

"The Festival also makes a very substantial contribution to Victoria in its own right with an economic impact study of the 2004 Festival finding it added over \$30 million to Victoria's GSP and created over 700 full time equivalent jobs."

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