

Thursday, 3 June, 2010

VICTORIAN MANUFACTURERS INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Industry and Trade Minister Jacinta Allan and Small Business Minister Joe Helper have congratulated this year's inductees to the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame who represent the cream of Victoria's manufacturing crop.

Ms Allan said that the Hall of Fame showcased excellence in Victorian manufacturing and acknowledged individuals who had made outstanding contributions to their respective sectors.

"The inductees are among the best in a sector that is Victoria's largest provider of full time jobs, employing 310,200 people and contributing \$30 billion to Victoria's economy," she said.

Mr Helper said several inductees were small businesses who had made big contributions to their local economies.

"Smaller businesses tend to be the most innovative in their bid to breakthrough in their respective markets," he said.

The following nine companies were inducted Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame at last night's ceremony:

- Australian Turntable Company - Metal Manufacturing;
- BlueScope Steel - Steel Manufacturing;
- Champion Compressors – Pumps;
- Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses – Food;
- Jindi Cheese – Food;
- Kraft Foods (Vegemite Port Melbourne Operations) – Food;
- Mett Pty Ltd - Die Casting;
- Murray Goulburn Co-Operative – Food; and
- Viridian Glass – Glass.

Inducted as Honour Roll members for their long standing contribution to manufacturing in Victoria were Jim and Bill Sutton from Sutton Tools and Ross McCann from Qenos.

The Young Industry Ambassador Award winner was Carolyn Tan from Boeing Hawker de Havilland, and the Young Manufacturer of the Year was James Dickey from Kraft Foods.

Since the inception of the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame in 2001, the Victorian Government has inducted 106 companies, 22 honourees, two lifetime members and seven young manufacturer of the year recipients.

Ms Allan said figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics yesterday showed Victoria had the strongest economy in the nation over the past year growing by 6.4 per cent making the Opposition's campaign that the State was headed for economic disaster not just dangerous for jobs, but totally wrong.

She said the economic result is clearly better than the Australian average of 4.4 per cent in final demand.

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Inductee Quote:

Steve Plarre CEO Operations said, " the induction in to the Victorian Manufactures Hall of Fame is an exciting and major recognition of the efforts of staff and the company is proud to be producing high quality cakes in a sustainable manner after 100 years."

Further background:

The foundations of the Ferguson Plarre story were laid over 100 years ago through two separate family operations focusing on pastry cooking. The families honed their craft through two world wars, the Great Depression and countless other challenges before merging in 1980 to become Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses.

Since this time, the business has grown from a small family owned six bakery operation to a renowned and world class company comprising 48 bakeries owned and managed by 4th and 5th generation members of both the Ferguson and Plarre families.

An active commitment to quality products and service underpins the success of the brand, while a focus on sustainability ensures the company moves from strength to strength. A new \$10million state of the art baking facility features over \$300,000 of sustainability initiatives that demonstrate the company's Sustainable Business Growth Policy.

Among these initiatives Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses harnesses the waste heat from refrigeration systems, redistributes heat recovered from freshly baked products and employs new hybrid vehicle technologies to reduce the company's carbon footprint by over 5000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses' sustainability principles have been extended to all levels of the business from top level strategic planning through to staff recruitment and induction and position descriptions which identify sustainability as key performance indicators.

NetBalance was recently retained to conduct a Life Cycle Assessment examining the company's emissions, water footprint, waste levels and electricity usage. Changes implemented based on the findings have delivered a saving of \$290,000 in electricity costs alone per year.

It is this strong sustainable approach that will no doubt see Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses succeed in their goal to achieve zero emissions in the near future.