

Media Release

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Rubbing shoulders with Brisbane's elite

Top-notch industry representatives celebrated with students and staff of TAFE Queensland's College of Tourism and Hospitality (COTAH) on Monday night's informal networking event, and there was lots to celebrate!

The night coincided with the launch of our new TAFE Queensland Brisbane (TQB) brand. TQB boasts the merger of our three major education centres in Southbank, Brisbane North and Metropolitan South.

Industry showcased fabulous food and wine at pop-up tasting stalls scattered throughout the COTAH restaurant including Woombye Cheese, Beaux Desserts Rainforest Pearls, RedBay Brewery and Hidden Creek Wines; with Rouge Coffee to follow – just to name a few!

Plus Masterchef contestant, Neha Sen, added her unique Indian inspired ice cream to the spread of culinary samplings.

A cocktail bar was set-up by students to raise funds for COTAH star pupils Lily Chen and Cassandre Morris, about to compete in the World Skills Australia's (WSA's) competition in Perth in September. WSA supports young Australians to showcase their trade and skill talent. This year's winners will compete in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2015. Approximately \$300 was raised, which will contribute to flights and accommodation.

This isn't the first time COTAH students have starred in prestigious international competitions. World renowned, past students Richard Pascoe and Richard Ousby have several major national and international awards under their chef hats. Their international experiences have enabled them to draw on multiple cultural sources, and given rise to their culinary professional esteem.

COTAH Director Maria O'Dea believes a collaborative approach; such as these Alumni and Industry network nights are imperative to our graduate's achievement and competitive edge.

"From the moment students enrol with us they become part of our COTAH community, and remain so," Maria said.

"Strengthening student and industry networks ensures we remain up-to-date with industry developments and front of mind as educators of choice.

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“We use these fun and informal nights as a platform for our achievements and an opportunity to hear of our student’s success in the field. Our students with industry partners are TQB’s education ambassadors, and that is important in our highly competitive global economy,” she said.

The gourmet and festive Alumni and Industry networking event was a great success. This is just one of many that will be held throughout the year. So stay tuned for more upcoming networking nights and celebratory events by TAFE Queensland’s COTAH.

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