



THE STAR

Media Release

GOLD COAST HOSPITALITY TEACHERS GET THE STAR EXPERIENCE

22 May 2017

Around 30 Queensland high school teachers specialising in hospitality recently visited The Star Gold Coast as part of a 'train the trainer' development opportunity to learn about the property's wide range of careers and pathways.

The teachers are part of the Hospitality Teachers Network, a group that formed in 2013 to provide development for hospitality curriculum and teaching skills.

Drawn from schools across the Gold Coast and Brisbane, they were given the five-star treatment as they heard from the property's executive chef, took part in a champagne masterclass from one of its premium suppliers, and conducted a tour of the transforming property.

Palm Beach Currumbin State High School Technology Teacher Andrew Goodman said the opportunity highlighted the common misconception that hospitality was only an industry to work in while preparing or studying for something else.

"Before teaching, I had a long career as a chef in places like Uluru, Alice Springs, and Tasmania and I saw a variety of workplaces including fast food restaurants, surf clubs, and internationally-recognised hotel chains," Mr Goodman said.

"The point we must raise with our younger generation is that while hospitality offers a broad spectrum of workplaces and roles, five and six-star properties like The Star Gold Coast are seeking talent and provide rewarding careers.

"They require skilled people to fill a diverse range of positions – everything from VIP services, hotel management, and corporate roles – and they offer support, training, and professional development to help move them up the ladder."

Assisi Catholic College Coomera Middle Leader of Home Economics Beverley Harris said it was enlightening to hear about The Star Gold Coast's different training pathways to help students navigate their way from study to working life.

"It was a great experience for us to hear about The Star Gold Coast's many training pathways including apprenticeships, traineeships, internships, and a school-based work experience program offering placements in areas like culinary arts, front-of-house roles, and corporate roles," Ms Harris said.

The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland Geoff Hogg said he was pleased to host the teachers so they could understand its current multi-million dollar investment on the Gold Coast, which will offer new opportunities.

"This has been a highly valuable opportunity to showcase our property to local school teachers so they can take their learnings back to the classroom and help students considering further training in our growing sector," Mr Hogg said.

"Working with schools has never been more important as our industry faces a huge skills shortage and we need to build awareness that hospitality can provide lifelong and rewarding careers, not just temporary or transitional ones.

“Further to working with schools, we have many partnerships with a variety of other education and training providers including TAFE Queensland, local universities, and hotel schools.

“We are proud to work with them to help ensure we are prepared for our new six-star hotel opening prior to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.”

Mr Hogg said the property will also create extensive jobs through a new 200-metre hotel and apartment tower – part of a wider master plan concept – and will begin preparatory works later this year pending apartment pre-sales.

“This will take our current investment at Broadbeach to up to \$850 million. Once operational, both the six-star tower and the hotel and apartment tower will increase our Gold Coast workforce to 2300 employees,” Mr Hogg said.

“We now also own the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort at Main Beach, increasing our footprint on the Gold Coast and creating even more opportunities to work for us in the future.”

Hospitality Teachers Network Coordinator Tracey Maher, one of the founding members, said the group features teachers from more than 45 Gold Coast, Brisbane, and Ipswich schools.

“Our session with The Star Gold Coast marked the first time we’ve been able to connect with a large industry employer, and we hope it will open doors to link with others in the near future,” Ms Maher said.

To learn more about The Hospitality Teachers Network, visit their Facebook page – **Home Ec Network Group Gold Coast**.

To learn more about training and careers with The Star Gold Coast, visit www.thestargoldcoast.com.au, or email careers@star.com.au or school.experience@star.com.au

For more information:

Naomi Jamieson

Communications Executive Corporate Affairs – Queensland, The Star Entertainment Group +61 7 3306 8746