



THE STAR

Media release

## The Star tastes culinary award success

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The Star Entertainment Group has been honoured overnight at the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's (QTIC's) Salute to Excellence Awards, with two of its school-based apprentices and The Star Culinary Institute (SCI) winning top awards.

The QTIC Salute to Excellence Awards recognises Queensland's best in the tourism, hospitality and culinary industries, through vocational and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

The SCI, which partners with TAFE Queensland and provides on-the-job training and career opportunities for secondary students, won the Industry Leader Employer of the Year award; the first time this category has been added to the Salute to Excellence Awards.

Gold Coast student, 17-year-old Abbey Kuhnell won the Cookery Excellence award.

The up and coming chef has been undertaking an apprenticeship at The Star Gold Coast while completing her high school studies.

Fellow SCI apprentice, Erik Brown, who has been with the Treasury Brisbane since 2019 won the runner-up accolade.

Completing the apprentice trifecta Ethan Alborn, who undertakes his apprenticeship at The Star Gold Coast, was a finalist.

The Star's Learning and Development Manager, Bernice Colcomb has congratulated Queensland's future masterchefs.

"We are so proud of the achievements of these three talented apprentices and special congratulations must go to Abbey for taking out the top award," Ms Colcomb said.

"It gives us immense pleasure to train and mentor young, emerging chefs who have a passion for food, and all three students have bright futures ahead of them," she said.

Ms Colcomb said winning the Employer of the Year award was recognition of The Star's commitment to the future of Queensland's vibrant hospitality industry and its own team building plans.

"We are hoping Ethan, Abbey and Erik, will continue their culinary pathways with us as they transition into full time roles at the end of the year."

The Star Entertainment Group has over \$5 billion of development underway or in planning across Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Queen's Wharf Brisbane will house 50 restaurants, cafes and bars when the riverfront precinct starts opening from late next year.

"The exciting developments under construction across the state, at Queen's Wharf Brisbane and The Star Gold Coast, will also provide enormous job opportunities for those apprentices, who are currently training at SCI and for those who are yet to join us in the years ahead," Ms Colcomb said.

The Star Culinary Institute is recruiting now with applications open for dozens of school-based and fulltime apprenticeship positions.

“We have some of the best chefs and cooks in the country employed across The Star Entertainment Group, and over 45 of them are SCI alumni, working in restaurants including our award-winning signature restaurants like Kiyomi, Cucina Vivo and Nineteen at The Star Gold Coast,” Ms Colcomb said.

Other up and coming chefs from within the SCI program have also been chosen to represent Australia on the international stage in competitions such as WorldSkills 2019 and Global Young Chefs Award Asia Pacific.

**For more information:**

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