



THE STAR

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### CULINARY APPRENTICES HARNESS CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR CHARITY

Culinary apprentices at The Star Sydney were into the holiday spirit for Christmas in Pymont, an event that brings together the community including residents and businesses while raising funds for – and awareness of – local charities.

The Star is a proud and long-time supporter of Christmas in Pymont, and the local community. As part of this year's street fair, The Star will feature three tents - a gingerbread house featuring the apprentices' creations, a pop-up of Bar Nexus - its new restaurant with a mouth-watering menu of cheeseburgers and chips, and a coffee cart packed with sweets and pastries made by our talented chefs.

All proceeds will go to supporting three charities selected by Christmas in Pymont, which this year include Ultimo Public School Music Program, Barnardos Response to the Covid19 Crisis and Uniting Harris Community Centre.

Christmas in Pymont Convenor, Mary Mortimer said, "We're thankful for The Star's support of the Pymont community, and events like this that bring us together.

"As we emerge from the impacts of the pandemic, and with The Star's on-going help, Pymont will once again be an exciting hub of activity and return to welcoming locals and visitors alike."

Chief Operating Officer, Damian Quayle said The Star Sydney has been delighted to again be able to support the local community after its operations had been restricted over the last 18 months.

"The Star is an integral member of the local community and we're excited to see Pymont return to its vibrant self," Mr Quayle said.

"The businesses and residents that are our neighbours make Pymont the inviting location that it is for local visitors, as well domestic and soon international tourists.

"We're incredibly proud to continue our support of the charities and community events that are important to them."

Over 20 apprentices, of which 16 are newly inducted, learned how to make and decorate the gingerbread houses in one of The Star's culinary masterclasses.

The culinary masterclasses, on-going program aimed at building the skills the next generation of chefs, are provided by The Star Culinary Institute – a partnership between The Star Entertainment Group, and TAFE NSW and TAFE Queensland.

Since its inception in 2012, nearly 100 apprentices have completed the program, with over 45 alumni permanently employed across The Star's properties in Sydney, Brisbane and The Gold Coast. Currently, The Institute is training 80 apprentices nationally.

First year apprentice, Christina Ruoff said the masterclass was fun and festive experience, and that it brought the Christmas spirit into the kitchen.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to be mentored by The Star's head pastry chef who has extraordinary breadth of knowledge," Ms Ruoff said.

“It’s also such a great feeling knowing that our creations will benefit those in need across the community, especially after such a difficult year for everyone.

“I’m looking forward to all the other opportunities my apprenticeship will bring.”

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**For more information contact:**

Nehad Kenanie, Media Manager, The Star Entertainment Group, 0402 271 142

**About Christmas in Pymont**

Christmas in Pymont Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation which grew from a group of like-minded volunteers living in Pymont and Ultimo. The group raises funds for, and increases awareness of, local charities and community groups, and celebrates the festive season, the community and the central place of the Pymont Community Centre.

This year, Christmas In Pymont is on Sunday 12th December in a new time slot from 11:30am – 5:30pm in Refinery Square, Bowman Street.