



**Mouth-watering:** Matthew Swanston from The Lookout prepares some delicious desserts. Photo: Camille Walsh.

## Katoomba on a plate

Regional food and wine gave guest celebrity foodies a run for their money as the star of Wednesday's Feast Blue Mountains, an event presented by Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise (BMEE) as part of efforts to position the Mountains as a quality food destination.

Celebrity chef Simon Bryant of ABC's *The Cook and The Chef* and renowned foodie and former SBS journalist Indira Naidoo headed a stellar line-up of chefs, brewers, sommeliers and restaurateurs for a day dedicated to local, fresh, seasonal produce.

More than 70 guests from the Blue Mountains, Sydney and beyond attended.

Each speaker talked about the importance of following food seasons instead of food trends to ensure the freshest, most flavourful food is on the plate.

Food for the three-course producers' lunch was sourced from regional producers in and around the Blue Mountains, including Jannei goat cheese, Crackwillow pork, First Farm Organics, Lowes Mount Truffiere, Zokoko chocolate, Kurrajong Kitchen and Western Regional Wines.

BMEE chairman, Donald Luscombe, said: "Feast Blue Mountains was an important educational and networking event for local restaurants, cafes, hotels and food producers.

"Our guest speakers issued a challenge for our local hospitality industry to do more to showcase local produce, which we know from the research is what visitors to the region want from their tourism experience.

"I was delighted to see commercial contracts being brokered on the day between local producers and restaurants, and BMEE looks forward to facilitating more opportunities for the local industry."

BMEE's food industry development officer



**Fine dining:** A wagyu beef entree

Carenia Harris said the day provided "an opportunity to put the theory into practice when it comes to using fresh, seasonal, regional produce. The producers' lunch featured some of the region's best food and wine and really showcased what the Blue Mountains is capable of."

Feast Blue Mountains was possible following the support of Westpac, Western Sydney Business Centre, The Lookout and Western Regional Wines.

Students and teachers from TAFE Wentworth Falls were also integral to the success of the event, including Amar Mall, Wendy Ashcroft Ware, John Rankins, and Kiralee Burt.

BMEE is supported by Blue Mountains City Council.