

Media release

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Regional food the star at Feast Blue Mountains

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 Blue 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, with more than 70 guests from the Blue Mountains, Sydney and beyond in attendance.

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
- Western Regional Wines

"Feast Blue Mountains was an important educational and networking event for local restaurants, cafés, 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" said BMEE Chairman Donald Luscombe AFSM. "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 Carencia Harris said "Feast Blue Mountains was 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 thanks to the support of Westpac, Western Sydney Business Centre, The Lookout and Western Regional Wines. BMEE is supported by Blue Mountains City Council.

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