

Master Grocers' ASSOCIATION

Committed to our community.
Committed to our employees.
Committed to our industry.

Published by the
The Master Grocers' Association
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Jennifer Flanagan CEO

Our directors are all dedicated independent retailers running their own businesses and committed to our association for the benefit of the industry.

Our management team is dedicated to assisting members in the following areas.

- * Industrial Relations & Shop Awards.
- * Advice and updates on changes to Awards.
- * Dispute negotiations.
- * Representation at Tribunal, or Conciliation hearings.
- * Wage rate advice and updates.
- * Long Service Leave.
- * Annual and Sick Leave.
- * Superannuation.
- * Workcover.
- * Taxation.
- * Government regulations.
- * Occupational Health and Safety Training.
- * Food Safety Training
- * Responsible Service of Alcohol
- * Equal Opportunity.

Associate members of...



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ASSOCIATION

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Editorial



Welcome to the first edition of the Independent Retailer for 2005. We have started the year with a busy schedule on all fronts.

The Hon. Marsha Thomson MP has moved on from the Small Business portfolio (but retains liquor) and we are currently arranging to meet with the Hon. Andre Haermeyer as soon as possible. Mr. Haermeyer met with the MGAV in 1999 in his role as Shadow Small Business spokesman and we are eager to renew acquaintances. I am also meeting with the Liberal Small Business Spokesperson, Mr. Bruce Atkinson whom many of you have met at industry functions. The office of the Federal Government Minister for Small Business and Tourism, Fran Bailey has contacted us in regard to an early 2005 meeting, and we have the Department of Workplace Relations visiting to review our working arrangement with that Department. Add a fair smattering of union discussion and we have a busy diary!

At the recent launch of the 'HomeGrown' initiative, Federal Government Agriculture, Fisheries and Wildlife Minister Warren Truss (see picture front page) announced a valuable new program to identify Australian products accurately so that the consumer seeking to purchase Australian products can do so with confidence. The pilot has commenced in Victoria, with the Federal Government providing \$3.5m in funding over the next two years. The aim is to support Australian farmers and encourage consumers to choose Australian product every time. The pilot covers fruit, vegetable, seafood, meat and deli items. We will cover this project in greater detail in the next edition.

Common Rule Awards became applicable in Victoria on January 3 (only for sites not already covered by an Award or Agreement) but the Shops Award is yet to be decided. If you have an instore butcher your site is now legally obliged to follow the wage rates, terms and conditions of the MGAV & AMIEU Award.

With the new OHS Act becoming effective mid year, Health and Safety will be a big part of your year in 2005 whether you like it, agree or disagree. The MGAV has developed a very comprehensive six day training plan for employers and employees, fully supported by Mark Laidlaw, Fred Harrison and the Victorian Metcash team. I am currently also speaking with FoodWorks as we want to see this as an all round industry commitment to health and safety for staff and customers alike.

Registration forms are on www.mgav.com.au or ring Melissa.

Similarly, Responsible Service of Alcohol and Food Safety form part of our training offer for 2005. We are also supporting the CUB / ALSA training with the first sessions for this year to be held in Shepparton and Wodonga. I am pleased with the MGAV membership response to this offer so far.

The IGA regional meetings are underway and I have been invited to attend to meet up with our retailers and to keep in touch with needs of the membership. If you are attending one of these, and want any specific information please let me know.

Land Tax. We joined a round table meeting with a number of other industry groups, including representatives of the restaurant, hotel, and transport sectors with a decision to consult with Government as a representative group on this issue. An issues paper is currently being developed with a plan to meet with the State Treasurer's Office in the next month. The impact of land tax legislation on business owners and operators across the State is now threatening to business profitability due to the property boom, and councils now valuating property on this heightened market, rather than the previous more conservative method.

Jennifer Flanagan