

Published by the
The Master Grocers' Association
A.C.N. 004 063 263
A.B.N. 44 004 063 263
Suite 9 No 1 Milton Parade
Malvern VIC. 3144
Phone: (03) 9824 4111
Fax: (03) 9824 4022
www.mgav.com.au

Our directors



Rod Allen
President
Mt Martha Supermarket
Phone: **5974 2525**

FOODWORKS



Jean Cowley
Vice President
Barwon Heads & Pt Lonsdale
Phone: **5429 5172**

IGA, Everyday



Geoff Gledhill
Immediate Past President
Seaview Cellars Beaumaris
Phone: **9589 2211**

FOODWORKS



Steve Miller
Ritchies Supermarkets
Phone: **9770 1077**

SUPA IGA



Sandy Bucello
Foster Supermarket
Phone: **5682 2495**

FOODWORKS



Michael Daly
Daly's Supermarkets
Koriot & Portland
Phone: **5565 8220**

IGA, Everyday



Peter Morgan
Morgan's Supermarkets
Phone: **9743 4411**

SUPA IGA



Tim Chen
Chelsea Heights
Phone: **9772 5098**

IGA, Everyday

CEO's Report

The Master Grocers dinner to bring together retailers, suppliers, and government was a great success again this year. I particularly send a vote of appreciation to the retailers who showed their support for the MGAV on this evening, as due to various ministerial diaries the event was held just prior to the Anzac Day long weekend. We also enjoyed the support of key suppliers to our trade, Metcash and FoodWorks executives, The Hon Fran Bailey, Federal Minister for Small Business, Mr Kevin Lowe from Minister Bailey's office, Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC Opposition Spokesman on Small Business, Mr Roger Arwas and Ms Rebecca Jarvis from the State Government Office of Small Business, and newly re appointed Victorian Small Business Commissioner, Mr Mark Brennan.

Ritchies Supermarkets (Carrum Downs) opened their latest shinning achievement this month. The trade attended in full force to see this new development and without exception, went away very highly impressed. We all attended the Aspendale, Dromana, and Rowville openings, and with each site Ritchies pushed the standards a little higher. Carrum Downs breaks new ground again, and on opening night Peter Jones from The Retail Group was rightfully extremely proud of his company's achievement in modern, professional supermarket design.



Metcash CEO Mr Andrew Reitzer launched the store and announced that Metcash (now an Australian owned company) was to take a 26 per cent share in Ritchies Supermarkets. Andrew explained that to Metcash (and the independent sector as a whole) this was a form of insurance; an insurance that gave protection to the independent sector by securing the volume turnover of this ever expanding company. He described the decision as a move to an equity interest in a company solely for the purposes of protecting Metcash core business, not a move designed to have Metcash re enter the retail environment. It is expected that other multi store ownership groups will follow this lead, to secure the cash injection needed to allow their own growth and development, and from Metcash's point of view, a further shoring up of volume - that vital ingredient to keeping the cost of doing business as low as possible.

Australian Workplace Agreements

The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, has launched the Office of the Employment Advocate's Small Business Program in Melbourne.

The OEA's Small Business Program is aimed at increasing the take-up of Australian workplace agreements (AWAs). Minister Andrews said that AWAs are especially useful in small business workplaces because they can be tailored to suit the individual needs of both employers and employees.

Minister Andrews delivered the keynote address to representatives of industry bodies, drawn from around Australia. The Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Peter Hendy, also spoke at the launch.

The OEA's Small Business Program has the Small Business AWA Helpline, the Small Business AWA website, and a template AWA for small business. This new initiative is a Fast Track AWA - with one important difference in that the employer cannot change anything in the draft document as with other AWA options.

Many MGAV members utilize the awards and agreements written and certified by the MGAV in conjunction with the SDA and AMIEU, however some are now looking to vary these options and are now considering AWA's.

The important issue is they can be done at NO COST to the employer via the Office of the Employer Advocate. I do suggest that MGAV members contact this office to ensure that everything is handled correctly. You can even come into this office, sit at a computer with one of us and we will work through the process with you step by step. If using a Fast Track AWA there will not be any charge to the employer, however if you wish to have a specific AWA created for your store, this will incur normal MGAV charges.

Jennifer Flanagan CEO

