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RASV | University of Ballarat
**AUSTRALIAN
INTERNATIONAL
BEER AWARDS**

MEDIA RELEASE

2 February 2012

Hop to it to Enter the 2012 Australian International Beer Awards

Entries for the 2012 Australian International Beer Awards (AIBA), the pre-eminent showcase of beer and brewing excellence in the Asia Pacific Region, have been extended to **Friday, 24 February**.

Now in its 20th year, the AIBA is presented annually by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV) in conjunction with the University of Ballarat. A new Industry Advisory Group has been appointed to further enhance the relevance of the prestigious competition.

The industry representatives come from a broad interest base including small and large breweries, education, hospitality and distribution. The members of the Advisory Group are Bill Taylor of Lion Nathan, Brad Rogers of Stone and Wood and Craft Beer Limited Association, Chris Badenoch of Josie Bones, Leif Ryan of Phoenix Beers, Peter Aldred from the University of Ballarat and AIBA Chief Judge, Peter Manders.

The AIBA is established on the international brewing calendar as a renowned barometer of diversity and excellence in beer brewing, and in 2011 the Awards attracted a record 1,195 entries from 34 countries across the globe, including Brazil, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Denmark and Kazakhstan.

Ann Houlihan, Manager, Epicure Events at the RASV, said, "The Australian International Beer Awards attracts entries from all corners of the globe in its 24 judging categories.

"With the Australian International Beer Awards growing in reach and prominence each year, the introduction of the new Advisory Group will ensure the Awards maintain relevance to the Australian and International brewing industry," Ms Houlihan said.

In response to exhibitor feedback and industry trends, the AIBA has refreshed the structure of the competition's awards, dividing the trophies for ales and lagers and appointing five categories as recipients of Champion Trophies out of an updated total 24 major trophies.

The competition's global reputation has been reinforced in recent years with the inclusion of some of the world's most respected judges who join a panel of Australian industry experts to judge a variety of classes.

The 2012 AIBA judging will be conducted at Melbourne Showgrounds in April. The event will culminate in the awards presentation dinner held during Good Beer Week at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia on Thursday, 17 May 2012.

[ENDS]

Entry into the 2012 AIBA closes on **Friday, 24 February**. For entry details please visit www.beerawards.com or contact the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria on +61 (0)3 9281 7444.

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TROPHIES

CHAMPION

CHAMPION LARGE BREWERY AUSTRALIAN

Awarded to the highest scoring Australian brewery with an annual production volume greater than 5,000 hL

CHAMPION LARGE BREWERY INTERNATIONAL

Awarded to the highest scoring International brewery with an annual production volume greater than 5,000 hL

CHAMPION SMALL BREWERY AUSTRALIAN

Awarded to the highest scoring Australian brewery with an annual production volume less than 5,000 hL

CHAMPION SMALL BREWERY INTERNATIONAL

Awarded to the highest scoring International brewery with an annual production volume less than 5,000 hL

GARY SHEPPARD AWARD FOR BEST NEW EXHIBITOR/BEER

Awarded to the Highest Scoring Brewery entering the AIBA for the first time

2012 MAJOR TROPHIES

BEST AUSTRALIAN STYLE LAGER – Classes 1 & 2

BEST EUROPEAN STYLE LAGER (Excluding Pilsner) – Classes 3 & 4

BEST INTERNATIONAL LAGER – Classes 5 & 6

BEST PILSNER – Classes 7 & 8

BEST AMBER/ DARK LAGER – Classes 9 & 10

BEST AUSTRALIAN STYLE PALE ALE – Classes 11 & 12

BEST INTERNATIONAL PALE ALE – Classes 13 & 14

BEST BRITISH STYLE ALE (Excluding IPA & Pale Ale) – Classes 15 & 16

BEST EUROPEAN STYLE ALE – Classes 17 & 18

BEST IPA – Classes 19 & 20

BEST AMBER/DARK ALE – Classes 21 & 22

BEST PORTER – Classes 23 & 24

BEST STOUT – Classes 25 & 26

BEST REDUCED OR LOW ALCOHOL – Classes 27 & 28

Reduced must be between 1.16% - 3.5% , Low Alcohol must be between 0 – 1.15%

BEST WHEAT BEER – Classes 29 & 30

BEST BELGIAN & FRENCH ALE – Classes 31 & 32

BEST SCOTCH & BARLEY WINE – Classes 33 & 34

BEST SPECIALITY – Classes 35 & 36

BEST PACKAGING – Class 99