

MEDIA RELEASE

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PRESIDENT'S MEDAL JUDGES VISIT GOLD COAST MARINE AQUACULTURE

Gold Coast Marine Aquaculture on the Logan River will next Tuesday show off some of the only domesticated tiger prawns in the world, as judges decide if it's the best of the best in Australian agricultural production.

The company is one of six finalists in the 2009 President's Medal, awarded by the **Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS)** and Australia's only competition pitting award-winning producers from the food and wine industries against each other for \$10,000 in cash.

Gold Coast Marine Aquaculture's Cooked Black Tiger Prawns U10 were named Champion Prawn Exhibit at the 2009 Sydney Royal Fine Food Show. From this, the company was nominated as a finalist in the unique President's Medal, which is judged on a whole-of-company approach to production and marketing of their Champion product.

Judges Simon Marnie (ABC Radio) and Scott Davenport (NSW Department of Primary Industries Chief Economist) will visit Gold Coast Marine Aquaculture's operation to evaluate the producer's financial, social and environmental performance in their manufacturing and marketing processes.

Gold Coast Marine Aquaculture is up against five other 2009 finalists: Bulla Dairy Foods (VIC); Gundowring Fine Foods (VIC); Paringa Estate (VIC); Richard Gunner's Fine Meats (SA) and wine giant Tyrrell's Vineyards Pty Ltd (NSW).

Farm Manager Darrell Herbst believes the passion in the company to make the product as good as it can get, sets them apart. "We are constantly innovating to improve the way we operate, with a big focus on sustainability and quality," Mr Herbst said.

"Breeding the prawns ourselves means not having to catch wild stock, as well as making supply more reliable and the end product more consistent. People should be able to come back next week, next month, or next year and get prawns with the same taste, texture and appearance."

Glenn Dudley, President of the RAS said the President's Medal recognised the multifaceted approach to food production required in the competitive domestic and international markets. "The President's Medal raises consumer awareness and rewards producers who use sustainable practices. Judges look at financial, social and environmental performance, market acceptance, and the passion, commitment and enthusiasm of the producer.

"This prestigious award is fitting recognition for Australia's world class food and wine industries and I congratulate Gold Coast Marine Aquaculture on their nomination," Mr Dudley said.

The President's Medal will be presented at a gala dinner in Sydney on Wednesday 20 May 2009. It is proudly supported and sponsored by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Woolworths Ltd.

Further media information:

Philippa Lampe, RAS Manager Media & Public Relations

P (02) 9704 1453 **M** 0419 483 407 **E** plampe@rasnsw.com.au

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