

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

June 2009

### **The best of the brews**

West Australian beers have proven their supremacy by taking out the best in show at the 2009 Cryer Malt Perth Royal Beer Show in Perth last night.

Margaret River's Colonial Brewing Co. has won the Cryer Malt trophy for the best commercial beer of the show for their Colonial Kolsch. The brewery also won the Barrett Burston trophy for the best ale draught and the Premier's Trophy for the best WA beer of the show.

"Their best in show for the Kolsch is a world-class example of a top-class beer," says 2009 chief judge Brendan Varis. "WA beer drinkers should be grateful and happy to have beers of this quality available to them locally. It's great to know we have this kind of beer in our own backyard."

Colonial Kolsch is a keg beer and available on tap.

Other WA trophy winners include Henley Brook's Mash Brewing, which took home two awards for best stout draught and best lager draught and Myaree's Billabong Brewing for best stout.

The former North Fremantle brewer, Matilda Bay Brewing Company won best wheat beer draught and champion commercial brewery.

Brendan says the judges were pleased to see iconic West Australian beer brewers and up-and-coming boutique brewers sharing the spotlight.

"The standards were high this year and in particular the winners of the gold medals were of a very high standard," says Brendan, who is also the owner and head brewer of Feral Brewery.

"There were some interesting experimental beers entered this year. They represent an opportunity for brewers to explore further over the next few years and their commercial potential could be most interesting."

The 2009 Cryer Malt Perth Royal Beer Show featured almost 300 entries from 65 exhibitors from around Australia. Eleven trophies were awarded to commercial beers in categories including best stout draft, ale, wheat beer, lager and ale draught.

Seven trophies for amateur brewers featured categories like best stout, reduced alcohol and ale. The best amateur beer of the show went to Gryphon Brewing Services which also took home the trophy for best amateur brewer and best ale.

"The exciting thing about this competition was that the best of the amateur beers were very comparable with the best of the commercial beers," says Brendan. "Those beers came from the people who are serious about making beer and they are doing a very good job of it."

All the amateur section winners were from WA including Amphion Brewing from Leeming, Victoria Park's Asher Mitchell, Paul Hyatt from Rossmoyne and Casuarina's Paul Marcos.

As well as the trophy for most points, gold, silver and bronze medals are also awarded in each category according to points scored for the colour, flavour, technical quality and aroma of each beer.

The implementation of a new judging format – based on other international beer shows – proved to be successful and made the judging process less onerous.

The awards were made at a presentation dinner last night (Thursday, June 11) at the Parmelia Hilton and hosted by Mercurio's Menu host, actor, dancer and beer lover Paul Mercurio.

## 2009 Cryer Malt Perth Royal Beer Show

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The Smoke Free Perth Royal Show is presented by The Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia  
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