Wednesday, 12\textsuperscript{th} August 2009

Business Success in the face of economic downturn; Passion and enthusiasm shine through at Victoria / Tasmania MYOB Franchising Awards night

Over 130 excited franchise professionals helped celebrate a “Salsa” themed MYOB VIC/TAS Excellence in Franchising Awards gala dinner last week at Melbourne’s Sofitel Hotel.

Along with many of Australia’s biggest brands including – Bakers Delight, 7-Eleven and Autobarn – the Victorian Minister for Small Business Joe Helper was in attendance and spoke to guests about the importance of the franchise sector to the Australian economy.

“I am told that Australia is now home to more franchise systems, per capita, than anywhere in the world,” the Minister said. “Franchising pours more than $130 billion into the national economy and provides jobs for around 700,000 people. We believe that in Victoria, the franchising sector is working well and we have a clear and consistent position on how to grow the franchising sector in this State,” the Minister said.

The MYOB Excellence in Franchising Awards celebrates – both regionally and nationally – the success of hard working Australian small business people.

THE WINNERS - Among the winners on the night was Samantha Jones franchise owner operator for Contours who took out the VIC/TAS Franchise Woman of the Year Award. Sam’s business in Geelong West is the number one Contours studio internationally – this is out of 750 studios in 30 countries. And just to keep the standards high, her studio in East Geelong is ranked number two internationally!

Travelling all the way from Hobart for the event proved to be twice as sweet for Jason Love and Mark Maumill of Banjo’s Bakehouse who took out the VIC/TAS Franchisee Community Service Award and the Multi-Unit Franchisee of the Year Award.

In addition to their own personal community involvement, Mark and Jason’s 9 Banjos Bakehouse franchises supply bakery products – daily - to a range of charities as well as organising and coordinating fundraising efforts in their stores through to organising staff blood donation days. That’s business success and community engagement going hand-in-hand.

Other winners from the night included: Lou and Silvana Pannunzio – Kwik Kopy Printing (VIC/TAS Franchisee of the Year - 2 or more staff); Darren Andonovski - Mister MINIT - Box Hill (VIC/TAS Franchisee of the Year – less than 2 staff) and Evan Badlee - Boost Juice Bars (VIC/TAS Field Manager of the Year).

The Awards showcase travels to NSW, SA, QLD and WA over the coming weeks as we help spread the message of franchising success in Australia. A record number of Award entries this year and the quality of submissions points directly to a sector that is driving through the economic downturn with the power of teamwork, passion and enthusiasm.

For more information or to interview winners please contact:
Alex Doran, Marketing Communications Manager
Franchise Council of Australia 1300 669 030 or 03 9508 0807

The Franchise Council of Australia is the peak industry body for the
$130 Billion Australian franchise sector representing franchisors, franchisees and suppliers/advisors. www.franchise.org.au