

MEDIA RELEASE

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Five prestigious medals for Co-op's Bago Bluff range

Hastings Co-op's multi-award winning Bago Bluff condiments have impressed the Royal Hobart Fine Food Award judges once again, reaping four silver medals, one bronze and a perfect score for the Yellowbox honey's flavour.

The hugely-popular caramelised balsamic vinegar was awarded a silver medal – following a bronze in 2016 and gold in 2017 – while the lemon infused olive oil, chilli jam and corn relish also received silvers. The newest product to be added to the range, a country style mustard pickles, picked up a bronze medal even before it has hit supermarket shelves and restaurant kitchens.

Bago Bluff manager Tim Walker said the range's popularity had surpassed all expectations and is now stocked in supermarkets, cafes and restaurants all over NSW, with growing interest across Australia and abroad.

"When Bago Bluff was first introduced we wanted to offer a range that showcased the best locally-grown produce and raw ingredients, something unique to the Mid North Coast that would also help boost employment and the local economy," he said.

"Since launching with the original nine products in 2016, we've added a chilli jam, several of the products in commercial tubs for the hospitality industry and more recently a range of corporate gift hampers.

"We're also excited about introducing the new mustard pickles in the next few months."

The Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards are hotly-contested national awards judged by a panel of respected judges against all the characteristics that distinguish great food – taste, quality ingredients and value for money.

With the aim of promoting and encouraging excellence in the Australian food industry, the awards provide a quality benchmarking system that enables fine food producers to assess the quality of their products against their contemporaries and competitors.

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Bago Bluff medal tally

2018

Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards SILVER – Lemon infused olive oil Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards SILVER – Chilli jam (bush tucker category) Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards SILVER – Corn relish Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards SILVER – Caramelised balsamic vinegar Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards BRONZE – Country style mustard pickles

2017

Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards – Local Produce award winner Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards GOLD - Caramelised balsamic vinegar Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards GOLD - Orange infused olive oil Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards SILVER - Marmalade Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards BRONZE - Tomato relish Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards BRONZE - Lemon infused olive oil

2016

Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards GOLD - Yellowbox honey Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards SILVER - Orange infused olive oil Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards SILVER - Corn relish Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards SILVER - Tomato relish Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards SILVER - Quince paste Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards BRONZE - Caramelised balsamic vinegar Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards BRONZE - Lemon infused olive oil