

BEST BAKERY IN AUSTRALIA RIGHT ON OUR DOORSTEP

Four months into her life as a cafe owner, Toni Vorenas made a decision – she wanted to be able to control the quality of everything they sold and that meant moving away from the original plan of sourcing their baked goods and bread from other suppliers and making everything themselves on premises.

Toni's decision for house made products was fast tracked by a pastry chef literally landing on their doorstep just as she looked to put the new plan in motion and Metro Bakery & Cafe has never looked back.

The visible popularity of the Mount Gambier eatery not withstanding, in July this year, Toni's decision was vindicated when Metro took out the SA Restaurant & Catering Award for Excellence as the Best Bakery/Patisserie and the Best Breakfast Restaurant.

An even more resounding vote of confidence came the way of the Metro and its pastry chef team last week at the national awards in Sydney when they were named Australia's Best Bakery/Patisserie – one of only three establishments deemed worthy of being named a finalist and the only Bakery/Patisserie to receive a medal in their category – a gold, of course.

"We were surprised enough to win the State awards so we certainly had no expectations going to the national awards – we went to Sydney for the experience," Toni said. "For us, it was a great opportunity to see what other places are doing."

But in the end it turned out to be



another huge pat on the back for Metro and its pastry chefs. "These awards have come at a good time for the bakehouse and really given them a shot of confidence," Toni said. "I lost count of how many people asked me where is Mount Gambier. Things like this certainly put this region on the map, which is great."

Sails at Robe was the South Australian representative at the national

awards in the Seafood Restaurant category but lost out to 2 Fish Restaurant at Port Douglas, while The Barn, which won Best Wine List at the South Australian Awards, did not have a comparable category to contest at the national event.

Prior to the State and, now, National award, head pastry chef Norerriz Labrador already had some big plans for expanding the bakehouse menu –

adding plated desserts and handmade chocolates, he is also a qualified chocolatier – and that is now being fast tracked on the back of the award success.

Norerriz basically took on the role at Metro just before the judging for the State awards was going on and taking the national honour was a proud moment for the passionate pastry chef, whose father was also a pastry chef.

"It is just reward for all the hard work he (Norerriz) puts in," Toni said. "All our staff are committed to the reputation of Metro."

Happy to bask in the glow of this recent success, Toni and her staff are enjoying the recognition but also focussed on the next chapter of the fast paced Metro story, with works on the cafe expansion well underway.

Left - Metro head pastry chef Norerriz Labrador with Mhercel Gomez and some of the bakehouse's award winning products. (Absent - Jarrad Heubler; Jess Beattie; Chris Rule & Declan Robinson)

FILM SOCIETY PRESIDENT RE-ELECTED

Italian comedy hit God Willing was the October offering for the Reels Film Society and the Italian smash comedy hit of 2015 proved one of the most popular screenings at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre. The October screening doubled as the society's AGM with three new faces being added to the committee. It was also a chance to acknowledge the tireless efforts of outgoing committee members Charlie Miller and secretary Dot Sheridan. The October meeting and screening also had two VIP guest - Federation of Victorian Film Societies president John Arkins, and his wife Gail, who is the federation's publicity officer. "We welcome enquiries from new members at any time and we have a great 2017 program lined up and membership won't cost you a fistful of dollars," said continuing president Rick Paltridge. More information including programs and membership can be found on the Reels official website <http://reelsatwehl-filmsociety.blogspot.com> Next month's cinematic treat is The Good, The Bad, The Weird, from South Korea. A sort of spaghetti western or "noodle" western that has some resemblance to those old famous Sergio Leone epic classics starring Clint Eastwood and Lee van Cleef.

Below - Reels Film Society president Rick Paltridge with Victorian Film Societies president John Arkins



METRO WINS GOLD AT NATIONALS

Winner of 2016 Best Bakery/Patisserie at the Restaurant & Catering Australia Awards

Thankyou to our dedicated and talented bakery/patisserie chefs

Norerriz Labrador, Mhercel Gomez and Jarrad Huebler, Absent: Jesse Beattie.

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