

## Media release



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### **PUBS BATTLE TO PLATE UP THE STATE'S BEST CHEAP MEAL**

Tough economic times have made the battle to be the state's best pub for a cheap, tasty meal a stand-out contest of the 2023 AHA NSW Awards for Excellence.

The Cheap Eat Meal Under \$15 category had more than 50 entrants this year - more than ever before - and judges had a tough time narrowing it down to just nine finalists.

Those finalists include; **Carousel Inn** -Rooty Hill, **Clarendon Tavern** -Clarendon, **Curly Lewis Brewing Co** - Bondi, **Fernhill Tavern** - Port Macquarie, **Great Northern Hotel** - Teralba, **Huntlee Tavern** - Branxton, **Tahmoor Inn** – Tahmoor and **The Bradford Hotel** and **The Rutherford Hotel** (both in Rutherford).

AHA CEO John Whelan said the huge interest in the category is a sign hotels are responding to the needs of patrons struggling with cost of living pressures.

"You can't get a lot for \$15 these days - and it's fantastic that over 50 pubs nominated their quality 'Cheap eats' meals for the AHA NSW Award." said Mr Whelan

"The best meals under \$15 have been selected for the finals and the judges will have a tough job."

"Today every dollar counts and NSW pubs are working hard to produce restaurant quality meals for those on a tight budget."

Culinary judges for the Awards are touring the state, blind tasting meals under \$15 and judging the winners on a long list of criteria.

The winner will be named at a gala ceremony on Tuesday, 31 October 2023 at Royal Randwick Racecourse in Sydney.

A full list of finalists for this year's AHA NSW Awards for Excellence can be found at [www.ahaawardsnsw.com.au](http://www.ahaawardsnsw.com.au)

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