



Newest SA food legend has a cheesy grin

By Kiri Olney

It's hard to believe Kris Lloyd knew nothing about cheese making when she purchased Woodside Cheese Wrights 14 years ago.

The local business owner who is now the company's head cheese maker, has founded the State's peak cheese association, the nation's largest cheese festival, and was last week named Adelaide Food Legend in the Adelaide Food Awards.

Winning the award came by complete surprise to the Myrtle Bank woman who was unaware she had even been nominated. "I think it's just an absolute honor," she said.

The mother of two came from a marketing background and had been working in her family's business Coriole Vineyards before purchasing the cheese company.

"Even though I didn't know anything about cheese it didn't worry me," she said.

Ms Lloyd said she soon realised cheese making was not easy but was able to learn from the company's existing staff.

With no formal cheese school in SA, in 2004 she established Cheese SA which she described as "the peak body for cheese in SA".

"I formed that with the view of understanding what other cheese makers had issues with," she said.

The chair of the association was able to attract State Government funding to run workshops for local cheese makers, as well as establish a cheese makers in residence program.

The program has brought international cheese makers to SA to provide local cheese makers with feedback and advice.

"These two initiatives I would have to say I'm so proud of because I really do believe they've helped the quality of SA cheese," she said.

She said the residency program has been very "powerful" and "valuable" for local cheese makers.

In 2006 Ms Lloyd went on to establish CheeseFest, the nation's largest cheese festival held in Adelaide annually.

Her business has also enjoyed success over the past 14 years claiming hundreds of awards and now boasts a variety of 24 cheeses from around six when she first began.

Ms Lloyd won the Telstra Business Women's Award for Business Innovation last year.

"I think I'm really lucky because I love what I do and I think that no matter what you do if you are passionate about it you will do well," she said.



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