



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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RISING STAR HONOURED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

One of the hotel industry's brightest young stars has received national recognition for her achievements.

Ms Bodelle Francis, 24 and currently Duty Manager of the Como Melbourne Hotel, has been honoured as the AHA's Young Hotel Manager of the Year.

"I am thrilled to receive this award – it means a great deal to me," Bodelle said. "I really enjoy working in hotels – the Como in particular – and I rate this award as very special.

"I hope it will persuade other young people to take up a career in hospitality, rather than just use it as a stepping stone to a job somewhere else."

An Adelaide native, Bodelle has been at the Como for four years. Before that, she worked at the Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove. Bodelle is a graduate of the International College of Hotel Management at Regency Park in South Australia.

By forging a career in the hotel industry, Bodelle is following in the footsteps of her parents, Jenny and Wayne Francis. Jenny and Wayne are well known in the Adelaide hotel scene, having been involved in the industry in SA for around 40 years.

The Young Hotel Manager of the Year award is restricted to people aged 26 or younger who are employed in a management position in an AHA member hotel or pub. Entrants are judged on their knowledge, expertise, interest, involvement and ambitions in the hotel industry.

AHA Director National Affairs Bill Healey has commended all finalists in the award, especially the winner.

"Bodelle is an outstanding example of a young executive who has chosen to make a career in the hotel industry," Mr Healey said.

"Given the current labour shortages our industry is facing, the AHA hopes such recognition will encourage others to choose a career in hospitality."

Bodelle was formally presented with her award at last week's 2007 AHA National Hotel Awards for Excellence presentation dinner.

For further information:

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The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) is the pre-eminent tourism and hospitality industry organisation in Australia. It has around 5000 members operating general and accommodation hotels. It has a National Office and Branches in each State and Territory. It also has a discrete Branch to represent the interests of its Accommodation members that covers four and five-star properties operated by the major chains.