



Best Beers

The results of the 1996 Australian International Beer Awards were announced recently. Nearly 300 entries were received for this year's competition, making it the third largest beer competition in the world.

The beers were judged by a panel of experts on their "commercial excellence" and scored points for physical characteristics, aroma, taste and quality.

The Grand Champion Prize was won by the South African Breweries Prospect Brewery with its Black Label Lager.

The most awarded local brewery was Tooheys which won five gold medals and two trophies for beers under the Hahn label. Of the beers readily available in Darwin, the best lager was won by Hahn Ice and the best reduced alcohol beer was Tooheys Blue Ice. Coopers won a gold medal with the Coopers Sparkling Ale.

Hahn Ice

Alcohol/volume 4.9%. A strong smooth beer, the unique flavour being due to the ice brewing technique which produces a smoother, purer and more refreshing beer/

Tooheys Blue Ice

Alcohol/volume 2.7%. The flavour of a full strength beer is present but is honed to a clean, crisp refreshing finish.

Redback Original

Alcohol/volume 4.7%. A high quality naturally brewed wheat beer. Redback

Original is produced using soft wheat and barley malt to create a refreshing beer.

Cascade Premium Lager

Alcohol/volume 5.2%. Brewed at Australia's oldest brewery, Cascade uses an extended lagering process, up to three times longer than most beers.

James Boag's Premium Lager

Alcohol/volume 5.0%. A European style lager brewed to yield a crisp, pale lager with a full palate and refreshing bitter finish.

Guinness Draught Cans

Alcohol/volume 4.9%. The full rich roasted malt flavour of Guinness is balanced by a bitter finish. Guinness Draught in cans delivers the experience of this traditional Irish brew anywhere.

Carlsberg Elephant Beer

Alcohol/volume 7.2%. The only beer of its kind on the Australian market. The strong appealing flavour compliments all hot and spicy food.

Budweiser

Alcohol/volume 4.7%. The King of Beers since 1876. The unique rice-filtration process produces a beer unmatched in clarity. The world's largest selling beer has a smooth taste complimentary to the finest of foods.

Budget - Federal Court Fee Increases

The 1996/7 Budget saw the announcement of increase in federal Court and Tribunal fees with the intention of ensuring that "the users of these expensive public resources contribute a fairer proportion of their cost, thus relieving some of the burden on taxpayers", according to the federal Attorney-General, Darryl Williams.

It is expected that these increases will raise revenue of \$19.5 million in 1996/7, increasing to \$30 million in 1998/9 and beyond.

The percentage paid by users (who, it is argued, often stand to make significant gains) will increase to about 30%, as opposed to 16% pre-Budget. This brings the cost recovery proportion to a similar level to the average in the states and territories.

In order to address a perceived imbalance between the ability of corporate litigants to offset costs through tax deductibility and possible increased financial gain and the lack of this advantage to ordinary litigants, it is proposed to have two scales of fees, in most cases the corporate fee being twice that of the individual fee.

Daily hearing fees in the Federal Court are to cost the individual \$550 and the corporate litigant \$1100. Setting down fee for appeals will now attract charges of \$1500 and \$3000.

It is proposed that voluntary counselling and mediation services in the Family Court, previously free, will now attract a fee of \$40 per hour.

A one-off setting down fee of \$400 is proposed for matters in the Family Court and application for matters other than divorce would cost \$250.

In the High Court, proposed new charges include a per day hearing fee for civil appeals of up to \$1500 and application for summons for directions fee of up to \$500.