



Media release

Friday 31st October 2025

CEOS TRADE BOARDROOMS FOR KITCHENS, RAISING \$1.5 MILLION TO DELIVER THREE MILLION MEALS

Sydney's culinary finale caps OzHarvest's nationwide CEO CookOff® series with record-breaking fundraising

More than 200 of Australia's top CEOs and business leaders swapped their suits for aprons this year, joining forces with 30 legendary chefs across seven cities to cook up something extraordinary - hope, connection, and three million meals for Australians in need.

OzHarvest's flagship fundraiser CEO CookOff® culminated in Sydney, bringing the nationwide series to a spectacular close beating the fundraising goal with an incredible \$1.5 million raised which will enable three million meals will help support communities facing food insecurity. Australian rock legend Jimmy Barnes generously made a heart-warming, surprise performance to the delight of all the guests.

The concept was simple but powerful: get business leaders cooking alongside culinary legends to create gourmet meals that were served and shared with members of the community from charities OzHarvest supports. The experience was transformative, breaking down barriers, building empathy, and proving that real change happens when you bring people together.

OzHarvest founder Ronni Kahn AO said hosting nine events across the month of October was a huge achievement at a critical time. "More people than ever need our help, so bringing back our flagship fundraiser CEO CookOff was much needed, not just to raise vital funds, but to create genuine human connection. When business leaders step into the kitchen and then sit down to share a meal with people from the communities we support, something shifts. They see the faces behind the statistics, have conversations to understand that anyone can find themselves needing help. And they become part of the solution."

The nine event, seven city tour brought together corporate Australia's finest with the country's most celebrated chefs, transforming kitchens into places of collaboration, compassion, and culinary creativity. Participants didn't just learn to how to cook, they learned about the realities of hunger in Australia and the power of community action.

One of OzHarvest's recipient organisations attending the Sydney event was Lomandra School and Community Pantry in Campbelltown, Principal Leanne Newitt said "I wish I could measure the impact of OzHarvest, but it goes way beyond the person who receives the food - a hamper that goes home with one child may feed a family of seven. I know that without it we'd be looking at a very different society, with many people facing hunger."

CEO CookOff has witnessed extraordinary acts of generosity from top chefs donating their precious time, to CEOs and business leaders* who've turned compassion into action with Sydney Swans Chairman Andrew Pridham topping the leaderboard, closely followed by bp Australia's Paul Auge and CBRE Hotels National Director, Wayne Bunz.



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Top fundraiser, Andrew Pridham said “It’s really important for those with the opportunity to help to do so, that’s what life is all about and that’s what business is about – giving back to the community.”

Senior Vice President, bp Asia Pacific, Paul Auge participated for the first time and spoke about the importance of their long-standing partnership with OzHarvest since 2017 ‘This event is a great way for leaders to understand the needs of the community and how as corporates we can help. The bp team love supporting the work of OzHarvest through fuelling their yellow vans and sponsoring CEO CookOff so every dollar raised can go to helping people in need.’

Thanks to Presenting Partner bp Australia and their generous sponsorship of CEO CookOff which is a reflection of their ongoing commitment to supporting communities across Australia. And other national event supporters, IHG, Hexclad and AV1 who made the nine events possible, meaning all funds raised will help OzHarvest deliver three million meals to feed people in need.

***Top 10 fundraisers & events:**

Andrew Pridham, Chairman, Sydney Swans – Sydney
Ronni Kahn, Founder OzHarvest – all events
Paul Auge, Senior VP Asia Pacific bp Australia – Sydney
Wayne Bunz, National Director, CBRE Hotels - Brisbane
Avaraam Solomon, Managing Director, Eurocold - Brisbane
Adrian Cosenza, CEO Australian Orthopaedic Association - Melbourne
Cameron Adams, Co-founder & Chief Product Officer, Canva – Launceston
Darren Mills, Director, Cadence & Co, Sydney
Martina Crowley, Managing Partner, PwC – Perth
Lawrence Goldstone, Chairman, OzHarvest – Sydney

Chefs

Neil Perry, Matt Moran, Peter Gilmore, Darren Robertson, Guillaume Brahimi, Andrew McConnell, Miguel Maestre, Colin Fassnidge, Blaze Young, Christin Manfield, Corey Costelloe, “Big” Sam Young, Brendan Pang, Alejandro Saravia, Jacqui Challinor, Karima Hazim, Justin Schofield, Andy Allen, Jessica Liemantara, Jason Staudt, Mindy Woods, AK Ramakrishna, Matt Adams, Craig Will, Cameron Matthews, Jake Nicolson and Parwana Afghan Kitchen

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Note to editors:

- **DOWNLOAD SYDNEY EVENT IMAGES [HERE](#)**
- **More information at [CEO CookOff : Home](#)**

ABOUT CEO COOKOFF®:

CEO CookOff® is OzHarvest’s flagship fundraising event since 2012, the event could not run during Covid and came back in 2022 in a reimagined format with chefs within restaurants. This is the first time the event has been held nationally with ongoing support from National Presenting Partner bp who have supported the event from 2017.

ABOUT OZHARVEST:

Founded by Ronni Kahn AO in 2004, OzHarvest is Australia’s leading food rescue organisation, collecting quality surplus food from more than 2,600 businesses. Every week over 300 tonnes of food is saved from going to landfill and delivered to 1,500+ charitable agencies, helping to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable people across Australia. OzHarvest’s education programs include: NEST - tailor made workshops that support people in need with nutrition education and life skills, Nourish - a hospitality training program for ‘at risk’ youth, FEAST – a curriculum aligned program for primary and high school student. To inspire behavioural change and make it easy to waste less at home, OzHarvest launched their Use It Up tape and campaign. OzHarvest operates nationally in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, NT, Tasmania and in regional communities and has delivered over 300+ million meals and saved over 90,000 tonnes of food from landfill. Every \$1 donated allows OzHarvest to deliver two meals to people in need www.ozharvest.org



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