

# HOTHAM

## PRESENTING MOUNTAIN FRESH CHEF 2009

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### Top Chef Challenge 2009

The conclusion of this year's Mountain Fresh Festival is the presentation of Mountain Fresh Chef 2009. The winners were announced today at a special event held at the White Room.

This year's Top Chef Challenge was bigger and better than ever. After running for four years, the food has become more creative and diverse, featuring ingredients such as kangaroo, emu and goat.

The use of such experimental ingredients was recognised through the new Bravery Award, which was taken out by Wookie (Lyndsay Hynes) from the General Store, with his dish of Reg Stag Emu Pie. Wookie told us "The reason I cooked it, I never cooked it before".



Runner-up for the title was Ashley Cadwell from Fountains Restaurant with his dish of slow-roasted Ovens Valley venison, prosciutto wrapped and topped with a juniper berry jus matched with a pan fried goat and pistachio smoked chipolata served on a bed of celeriac and truffle oil mash, accompanied with baby root vegetables. Ash's dish has a particular focus on using as much local produce as possible, saying that although it is very hard to get local produce up here, guests respect the effort that has been taken to source the fresh local ingredients that go into the food.

Taking out the prestigious title of Mountain Fresh Chef 2009 was Hamish Nugent from Tsubo in Dinner Plain with the only dessert dish entered into the competition of Stanley Apples and Harrierville Sorbet. Hamish was modest about his dish claiming that he "didn't think about it much, it just sort of happened". After explaining the processes of producing his creation, it was obvious the dedication to detail that was involved.

Congratulations to James Pert who was the winner of the Critic's Choice Award, who was a clear stand out as he sounded like he must be an actual food critic.

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