



Brownstone Micro Brewery's team Damien Flanagan, Lucy Symons, Ryan Crocker and Laurent Gillette toast their success. 260279



Venue manager Damien Flanagan pours a pint of medal-winning IPA. 260279



General manager Ryan Crocker with winning beers across every category. 260279

Brewer's pouring success

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

Brownstone Micro Brewery's NZ Pilsner has been crowned top of the hops.

The boutique craft beer maker at the hotel Atura Dandenong won a swag of medals at the highly competitive Independent Brewers Association National Beer Awards (also known as the 'Indies').

Its haul included medals in every beer variety category against a total of 180 breweries and more than 1300 entries.

The NZ Pilsner won gold in the lager section, with silvers for the Summer Ale and the Passionfruit Sour.

Its IPA, Pale Ale, Stout and Lager each landed bronze.

General manager Ryan Crocker said the NZ Pilsner was a "local favourite which makes the win even more gratifying".

"A full sweep of awards for every brew we entered is incredible recognition for a micro-brewery of our size," he said.



Brews are made and poured on-site. 260279 Pictures: GARY SISSONS

"The beauty of beer is everyone has their own taste and preference."

He paid tribute to master brewer Steve 'Hendo' Henderson from Rockstar Brewer, Matt John and the brewery team.

"They're creating beers for the community thanks to their passion and commitment to great beer and brewing excellence."

Brownstone's evolving array of light and dark



Venue manager Damien Flanagan and general manager Ryan Crocker. 260279

beers are brewed, fermented and sold onsite.

Within two hours of chilling, the fresh brews are ready to pour and to savour.

"The equipment was here when we took over the hotel," Mr Crocker said.

"And so we carried on the tradition. It's a unique point of difference."

The awards are also a bright point after a tough 18-plus months under Covid restrictions.



Sales manager Lucy Symons and general manager Ryan Crocker. 260279

Post-lockdown, the brewery's dining tables and bars are getting busy with Christmas parties and dog-friendly social outings back in force, Mr Crocker said.

Brownstone is meanwhile experimenting with a new passionfruit-flavoured brew, planned on tap within 12 months.

It's what Mr Crocker describes as equivalent to their rose wine.