

The Australia and New Zealand baking apprentice of the year competition

Compete in Australasia's
most prestigious bread baking
award and get recognition and
endorsement for your talents.

Nominations close Monday 4 March 2024



**L A JUDGE
AWARD**

Compete for the honour of the LA Judge title

Since 1967, the LA Judge Award has presented an opportunity for young baking apprentices or recently qualified bread bakers to showcase their abilities and knowledge by competing for the title of the LA Judge Australia and New Zealand baking apprentice of the year.

Qualifying for LA Judge is a significant achievement, while competing is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and an unforgettable experience.

Previous winners



Bjarke Svendsgaard,
Tasmania (2023 winner)

"Competing in LA Judge made me feel more passionate about baking and made me want to improve my skills. While the practical was nerve-wracking, the relief and feeling of success when we finished really made the experience worth it. The whole competition has been awesome and memorable."



Chloe Murray,
Queensland
(2022 winner)



Tristan Beisler,
New South Wales
(2019 winner)



Amie Stewart,
Queensland
(2018 winner)

Criteria

Competitors are nominated by their employer or training institution via a baking association to represent their state in this prestigious competition. All candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Only one candidate can be nominated from each Australian State and Territory, as well as New Zealand.
- All candidates must currently live and work in the state, territory or country of nomination.
- Each candidate must be 25 years of age or younger as of the 1st January in the year of competition.
- Candidates must not have finished their studies more than 24 months prior to 1st January in the year of competition.
- Candidates must be fully employed in the baking industry.
- A candidate must not compete on more than one occasion.



The competition

When: 7-9 May 2024

Where: AEGIC Sydney (North Ryde)

Over three days, young bakers have their practical baking skills, technical knowledge, and communication skills put to the test under the watchful eye of industry judges. The competitors will get an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge in:

- working with different bakery equipment to produce a variety of bread products in a practical assessment;
- the science of baking, functionality of ingredients, flour milling and product costing through written theory papers; and
- communicating their ideas on current industry topics through honing their presentation skills.

The competition concludes with an industry Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony to celebrate competitors and announce the winner. Described as one of the industry's biggest social events the LA Judge Gala Dinner is a great opportunity for candidates to meet potential employers, broaden their career network and forge connections with important industry players.

Flights, accommodation and meals are provided.

LA Judge Award History



"We must tell the story of bread"

– Les Judge, 1939

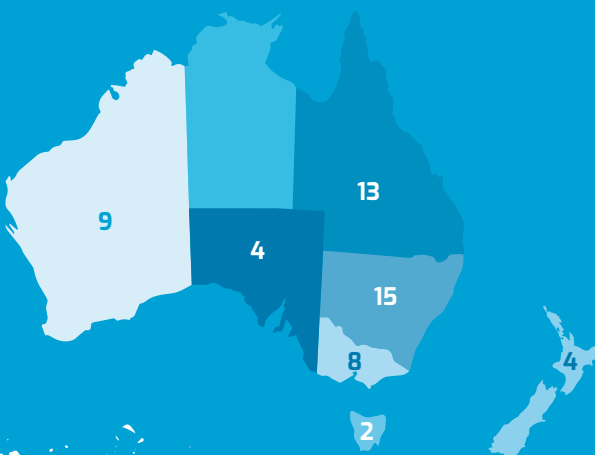
The LA Judge Award for baking apprentice of the year is named after Les Judge, a much-admired baker who entered the industry at 14 and dedicated most of his life to raising the quality of Australian bread.

As an industry advocate throughout his career spanning 60 years, Les was known as a great communicator and diplomat. He visited farmers and baked bread with them to demonstrate differences in grain and wheat varieties. His method removed the technical jargon and bridged the gap between bakers, millers, and growers around the country.

Les was a Life Member and past President of the Associated Bread Manufacturers of Australia and New Zealand (ABMANZ). When ABMANZ decided to set up a national baking apprentice award in 1967, he was the clear choice for the award's title.



State/country Number of wins



To find out more contact AEGIC or your state/national baking association:

AEGIC – contact Sabrina Lim: sabrina.lim@aegic.org.au

Baking Association of Australia (BAA) –
contact Tony Smith: tonysmith@baa.asn.au

National Baking Industry Association (NBIA) –
contact Natalie Kingcott: marketing@nbia.org.au

Baking Industry Employers' Association of Western
Australia (BIEAWA) – contact Karel Van Styn:
karelvanstyn7@gmail.com

New Zealand Association of Bakers – contact
Tania Watson: tania@bakingresearch.org.nz

The LA Judge Award is hosted by the
Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre: