

SPAR Australia

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PRESS RELEASE

SPAR Australia Celebrates As Successful 21st Year Draws To A Close

2015 has marked a milestone in SPAR Australia's history. SPAR Australia opened the doors to its first store in 1994, and now facilitates the operations of 157 SPAR, SPAR Express and 5 STAR branded stores, in addition to supporting many unbannered stores throughout Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

2015 commenced with a visit from the Managing Director of SPAR International, Dr Gordon Campbell. Dr Campbell's visit saw him present at various conferences, attend a SPAR Regional Meeting, officially re-launch SPAR Maclean and present SPAR Australia's Managing Director, Lou Jardin, with a certificate commemorating the original licence to operate SPAR in Australia that was granted on 8th June 1994.

Using the theme *Simply Retail*, SPAR Australia held three fantastic rounds of Regional Meetings throughout 2015 in locations such as Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Emerald, Sydney and Toowoomba. A superb Supplier Awards Dinner recognised the support of key Suppliers and the most successful Trade Show in SPAR Australia's history was held on the Gold Coast in August. Prizes such as \$10,000 worth of groceries, a trip for two to New York for New Year's Eve and FitBits in every store have been given away to consumers. Currently a Pacific Island Cruise is up for grabs for one lucky SPAR customer and the promotion is proving to be very popular.

SPAR Australia has proven that their business values of maintaining regular contact with Retailers and supporting them through promotions as well as store investment programs such as the SPAR Loyalty Bonus is critical to the success of the independent network. SPAR Australia is committed to continuing to work closely with the Retailers and their staff to foster a co-operative and successful relationship. SPAR Australia is pleased to have assisted many Retailers to continue on their path of profitability and growth throughout 2015. In a challenging year for Independents, SPAR has achieved positive growth in the majority of stores.

SPAR was founded in the Netherlands in 1932 by Adriaan van Well with the simple yet powerful philosophy that independent wholesalers and retailers can achieve more by working together. In the spirit of SPAR's acronym and the phrase coined from it, "We all benefit from joint cooperation", SPAR Australia will continue to develop these initiatives to achieve mutual growth with both their valued Retailers and Suppliers.

It has now been five years since Lou Jardin became Managing Director of SPAR Australia in December 2010. At that time, Lou vowed to continue to provide competition at the wholesale level, ensuring Independent Retailers are able to source deals that allow them to compete in the market and ensure the survival of family businesses in the grocery industry. Five years on, this philosophy is still key to SPAR's work. Opening or converting eleven new stores in the six weeks leading up to Christmas proves just how successful this mantra has been.

Locally owned and operated, SPAR Australia is part of the worldwide SPAR family. Over 12,300 SPAR stores in over 41 countries meet the needs of over 13 million customers daily. At SPAR you can be assured of great service, a great range, low prices every day and specials that will SAVE you money!

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