

26 April 2006

LOCAL CLUBS BATTLE FOR THE PEOPLE'S VOTE

For the first time ever the NSW public will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite club in the 2006 ClubsNSW Awards for Excellence.

The public will determine the inaugural People's Choice Award; the category created to determine which club has had the greatest impact on the community.

Club members and their guests are being invited to visit the ClubsNSW website (www.clubsnsw.com.au) and in 25 words or less describe what their favourite club means to them and their community.

All entries go into a draw to win a return holiday for two to the Gold Coast flying Qantas, and staying at the five star Palazzo Versace.

CEO of ClubsNSW David Costello said the People's Choice Award gives the community the opportunity to show its appreciation of the important work clubs do, most of it done without fanfare or recognition.

"To ensure the Award is won by the best club as opposed to the largest club, people can vote regardless of whether they are a member of a club or not.

"I'm sure there are plenty of people who work with not for profit organisations or junior sporting groups who have experienced first hand the generosity of a club and have been looking for an opportunity to return the favour," he said.

Chairman of ClubsNSW Peter Newell said he was looking forward to reading the reasons people give when voting for their favourite club.

"As a long time Chairman of a registered club myself, I'm always interested to hear what purpose people want and expect of clubs in the community.

"As society changes so do clubs and the role they play. There has definitely been a move to broaden the responsibilities of clubs in recent times.

"Twenty years ago clubs were focused on affordability and providing sporting facilities.

"Today clubs recognise they also have an opportunity for example to assist victims of natural disasters such as that recently in Far North Queensland and before that in South East Asia.

"Certainly as the Club Industry has grown so has the vision of what it can do for the community," Peter Newell said.

Media Contact: Jeremy Bath 0419 267 789