SPECIAL FEATURE

BUILDING ON PROUD PAST

There are new opportunities at one of South Australia's most prominent family companies

N iconic South Australian hospitality group is embarking on a new chapter and looking for local talent to join it as further expands across the state.

Matthews Hospitality, which currently has nine hotel venues, employs about 500 people from Whyalla in the west to Mount Gambier in the South-East.

It is particularly searching for talent for two executive positions in its management team, based in Maylands, Adelaide, who want to work at an organisation that has been a part of decades of history in SA.

People and Culture head Lisa Matthews says the two new significant executive positions will boost the group's management team and help deliver its strategic objectives.

'We are proud of the opportunities we provide those looking for a career in the hospitality industry,"

Matthews Hospitality was established during World War II by the late Seymour Matthews, the first of four generations of Matthews family over the more than 70 years since who have specialised in hospitality.

Matthews became an icon of SA's hospitality industry, recognised as he drove around Adelaide in his



FEATHER IN THE CAP: Matthews Hospitality group general manager Andrew Kemp outside The Feathers hotel.

pristine Rolls Royce, wearing a bow tie and with a cigar in hand.

Many iconic SA venues have been among the 36 licences or freeholds owned and operated under the Matthews banner over the years.

The company has been at the forefront of development in the industry, introducing initiatives such as the first drive-thru bottle shop and first smorgasbord in Australia.

The group also paved the way for night entertainment in hotels well known as being the original home of bands and artists including AC/DC, Jimmy Barnes and Cold Chisel.

Its venues now include the Feath-

ers, Maylands, Flagstaff, Buckingham Arms and Mansfield Park hotels in Adelaide, as well as three hotels and a bed and breakfast operation in Mt Gambier, and the Eyre Hotel in Whyalla.

The niche Two Sisters Food & Wine business in Goodwood recently was added to the portfolio.

Group general manager Andrew Kemp says it has no plans to slow down, with a view to continue to acquire additional hospitality assets.

"Following the completion of the Greenhouse restaurant at the Feathers Hotel, we are looking to continue our momentum and push the boundaries with how we deliver hospitality locally," he says.

"The next chapter of the Matthews story involves the transformation of our group to prepare for a new era of hospitality.

"We are looking to continue our growth in traditional areas, while investing in new local talent and innovative ventures to make the most of exciting opportunities ahead and to support our vision.

"One of the key characteristics sought in our talent search is expertise to deliver exceptional customer experiences and to exceed expectations of contemporary hospitality."

GROWING

THOUGHT

THE restaurant, cafe and takeaway food services sub-sector of the hospitality industry is forecast to make the largest contribution to Australia's jobs growth in coming years, new data shows.

Already it is the largest employing industry sub-sector nationally, with 704,800 people in work.

Jobs department statistics show a further 74,700 jobs are forecast to be created in the five years to May, 2023 - a growth rate equal to 11.9 per cent.

It reports domestic demand as well as a rise in international visitors is creating the need for more workers in the hospitality industry.

It compares to 53,000 more workers forecast to be employed in the school education sector, and 61,000 more staff in the other social assistance sector, which includes jobs such as aged carers.

In South Australia, 58,400 people are now employed in the wider accommodation and food services sector, which is forecast to rise by 3000 people to 61,400 by May, 2023.

It is predicted to be the fourthfastest growing industry in the state after healthcare and social assistance, construction, and education and training.

The jobs growth forecast also will see the industry move from the seventh-largest employing industry in SA in May, 2018, to the sixth by May, 2023, leapfrogging public administration and safety.

Workers across every skill level will be required, from baristas, cafe workers and waiters at entry level, requiring minimal qualifications; to cooks and chefs who need to be vocationally trained, and venue managers who require high-level skills such as tertiary qualifications.

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Hospitality & Tourism



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