

Troy's way of saying thanks to Tamworth

WASTE CAMPAIGN

By Rebecca Belt

FOR a decade, country singer Troy Cassar-Daley has been lending his voice and name to the Don't Waste Tamworth campaign and he's looking forward to another 10 years.

Troy was in Tamworth yesterday to again launch the Festival recycling and waste campaign, with a message for people to remain proud of their city.

The country artist said he wanted to be involved in the program because he had a large debt to repay Tamworth for the love of country music and the support it had given him.

"I moved here when I was about 20 and it was the first place I lived after I left Grafton," he said.

"People got behind me in a big way and everyone helped me out. The least I can do is come back and help Tamworth with this. It made me realise that I was pretty lucky to live here when I did."

Troy said he'd be putting his name to the recycling campaign for as long as Tamworth Regional Council would have him.

"This is an important thing for Tamworth," he said.

"Peel St is looking great and it's a credit to the town to have it looking like that."

The singer-songwriter and musician said the recycling



COUNTRY PROUD: Troy Cassar-Daley launches Don't Waste Tamworth and encourages everyone to recycle. Photo: Geoff O'Neill 061211.60005

campaign took the stress off the systems at the landfill site.

"The systems they have up there have set a precedent for other towns with what they do up there," he said.

"That is an asset for the town."

Troy said he was the recycling

police at home. "I just want to make the environment better because we're going to have to hand it over to our kids and that's what people are learning here in Tamworth," he said.

During the launch at Tamworth Regional Council, Troy performed *River Boy* and the

title track of his upcoming album, *Home*, which will be out in March.

Troy returns to Tamworth in January with plenty of guest spots on his mates' shows and his major show on Thursday, January 26 with tickets selling well.



CHEERS: Owner Charles Hanna, left, and chef Colin Selwood at the Willow Tree Inn.

Willow Tree pub a rare experience

By Natalie Croxon

FIVE northern region hotels have been recognised as being among the best pubs in the state in the *Sydney Morning Herald* Good Pub Food Guide 2012 - and one of which can lay claim to serving the best steak of any pub in NSW.

The tastiest steak can be found at the Willow Tree Inn, which also achieved a two schooner rating for scoring 17 out of 20 from the reviewers at Monday night's awards.

"It's a great accolade for our staff who do a great job, not only the chefs in the kitchen but the staff on the floor," owner Charles Hanna said.

The hotel, which encompasses Graze restaurant and The Grain Store bistro, has been open for just a year.

"We are extremely conscious of the beef and the product we sell. We are extremely conscious of maintaining the quality day in, day out, week in, week out," Mr Hanna said. He said the dry aged

beef, produced down the road at Colly Creek, was regularly tested to ensure only the best meat was served.

"It's all about consistency of product, so every time you go there you walk out having had a great eating experience."

The hotel has become so popular that up to 30 people travel by train from Tamworth each Friday, Saturday and Sunday for lunch, prompting the hotel to put on a courtesy bus to deliver them to and from the station.

The top rating of three schooners for scoring 18 and above was awarded to The Royal Hotel in Moree and Walcha Road Hotel.

Just six other hotels statewide achieved such a high rating.

Meanwhile the Top Pub in Uralla and White Bull Hotel in Armidale were given a one schooner rating for scoring 16 out of 20 from the judges.

Achieving a schooner rating placed the five hotels among the best 90 pubs in the state, chosen from a survey of 518 venues.

Festival program a success

VISITORS to the Festival and locals getting in the swing of things have recycled 82 tonnes of waste over the past decade.

This is in addition to the regular recycling figures that Tamworth residents have achieved for 10 years.

Tamworth Regional Council mayor councillor Col Murray said Troy Cassar-Daley was the reason for this. "He is making the program successful," he said.

"Having his high profile is the success of the program. It's not only beneficial for Tamworth, but the whole country music community and all visitors and artists."

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