



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday 3 June 2009

## Vue de Monde & Heide Partnership

Heide Museum of Modern Art announced today that leading Melbourne chef, Vue de monde's Shannon Bennett, will operate the museum's new café, **Café Vue** at **Heide** and the functions and events offering at the museum **Vue de monde Events** at **Heide**.

Designed by Chris Connell, **Café Vue** at **Heide** will offer a diverse range of delicious and affordable meals. Boasting a menu that comprises dishes suited to a casual lunch with friends through to those ideal for sumptuous picnics in Heide's iconic Sculpture Garden; highlights on the menu include Vue's famous Lunch Boxes and a two-course Menu du Jour for just \$15.

Equipped with a vision and philosophy dedicated to offering fresh, seasonal produce at affordable prices with an emphasis on sustainability, innovation and quality; **Café Vue** at **Heide** will see staff from Heide and Vue de Monde team up to deliver a truly remarkable cafe dining experience. To this end, Heide's gardeners will collaborate with the chefs from Vue de monde to plan, propagate and harvest produce from Sunday Reed's original vegetable garden exclusively for the Cafe.

Private events at Heide, ranging from corporate dinners and product launches to lavish weddings in the museum's expansive grounds, will benefit from Vue de monde's expertise in fine dining, previously reserved for smaller numbers.

Heide Director & CEO, Jason Smith, said today that he is delighted to welcome Shannon Bennett and his team to Heide, and that the cafe partnership embodies the museum's commitment to innovation and progressive culture.

"Not only is Shannon an internationally acclaimed chef, renowned for his vision for food, he has an enormous passion for art and contemporary culture. We look forward to a partnership with Shannon that further enlivens Heide's unique integration of art, architecture and landscape, and that brings the gardens and the great experience of Heide produce to visitors," Mr Smith said.

"Heide is a Melbourne icon built on a philosophy of innovation, progressive culture and sustainability. We appreciate Heide's gardens and art collection as the extraordinary and living legacies of John and Sunday Reed, renowned for their support and promotion of the contemporary art and culture of their time."

The recipient of numerous national restaurant awards and coveted international recognition, Vue de monde is renowned for its contemporary, cutting-edge French cuisine and is widely regarded as one the nation's premier fine dining experiences.

Shannon Bennett also operates the highly successful Bistro Vue and Cafe Vue from Vue de monde's busy CBD premises on Little Collins St, and Vue by Shannon Bennett - a restaurant in Oman's five-star Al Bustan Palace Hotel. His second Café Vue at 401 St Kilda Rd, scheduled to open in the coming months will include a bakery and production kitchen ensuring consistency is maintained across the multiple Melbourne sites bearing the Vue name.

While Shannon and his team have significant experience in partnering with leading establishments and delivering special projects, **Café Vue at Heide** signifies the first time that they have offered their expertise to a museum.

“Our partnership with Heide is a natural progression for Vue de monde and allows us to realise goals that have not been possible in our city location. These include the development of a working kitchen garden, catering for large scale events and bringing Café Vue to a beautiful location away from the CBD,” Shannon said today.

“Our shared vision with Heide is to celebrate this treasured icon, making it accessible and sustainable through great produce and by providing excellent value for money for the local community and beyond. I am very much looking forward to further developing my own passion for Australian art and using this as inspiration for the dishes and events that we create at Heide.”

Work on this exciting new addition to Melbourne’s dining and cultural landscape is underway and **Café Vue at Heide** will open to the public in November 2009.

Both Jason Smith and Shannon Bennett are available for interview.

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**Heide Museum of Modern Art**

7 Templestowe Road Bulleen Victoria 3105 Australia

T 03 9850 1500 [info@heide.com.au](mailto:info@heide.com.au) [www.heide.com.au](http://www.heide.com.au)

Opening hours: Tue-Fri 10.00am – 5.00pm; Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 12.00noon – 5.00pm

Admission: All Areas - Adult \$12, Senior \$10, Concession \$8, Gardens – Free.

For further media information:

**Magda Petkoff - Purple Media** T 03 9328 4522 M 0409 436 473 E [magda@purplemedia.com.au](mailto:magda@purplemedia.com.au)

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