



press clip

# Top chefs give Coast tick of approval

LARGER than life and full of witty repartee, celebrity chefs George Calombaris and Gary Mehigan last week made no secret of their love for the Sunshine Coast.

The pair visited Caloundra's Happy Valley as part of the 2011 Brisbane Good Food & Wine Show and Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd's biggest picnic.

It also formed part of a tour to promote their new book *Cook With Us*.

"It's wonderful to be here, it's so beautiful," Mr Calombaris told the crowd.

"It's moments like this that make you stop and realise how lucky we are - how lucky you guys are - to have this here and the wonderful produce."

More than 120 people gathered to enjoy the picnic which highlighted local produce including Nambour's Olives Direct, Noosa Chilli, Noosa Lime Co, Eumundi's

Australian Nougat Company and Maleny Dairies.

SCDL chief executive Steve Cooper said the picnic was a great opportunity to showcase the Coast.

"The Sunshine Coast is gaining a reputation as a leading destination from pasture to plate through to presentation and hospitality by some of the Queensland's finest restaurants," he said.

Mayor Bob Abbot said the picnic also promoted the council's Seasons of the Sun

initiative that aims to bring food and beverage businesses under one brand to increase awareness of what the region has on offer.

Cr Abbot said the program was starting to gain momentum.

"A big part of it is to promote the quality of local produce," he said.

➤ For more on the initiative, visit [seasonsofthesun.com.au](http://seasonsofthesun.com.au)



**GOOD COMPANY:** Evo Woodward, of Wurtulla, has her book signed by Gary Mehigan and George Calombaris.