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New South Wales Parliament Legislative Assembly

Jodie Van Der Velden: International Chocolate Hero

12 April 2018

I rise to briefly acknowledge and commend the most fabulous Jodie Van Der Velden, a wonderful woman, a most respected and loved resident of the Blue Mountains, small business owner and a constituent I am so proud of.

Jodie - Chocolatier at Josophan's Fine Chocolates of Leura - is a creative genius and she has recently been named an international chocolate hero: a tribute to chocolate chefs around the world.

These are the "passion-fuelled artisans whose weapons are whisks and palette knives. Those who won't rest before that awesome taste hits every tiny taste bud. Who bedazzle with that incredible ganache recipe they've done over 87 times to get it just right".

Jodie - an inventor - loves experimenting with new recipes and having opened Josophan's Chocolates in early 2005 has moved from strength and inspiration to strength and international recognition.

Now they offer - as only one of four places in the world - the spectacular ruby chocolate - a Callebaut creation: delicious sour ruby-pink chocolate that took a decade of testing to finesse.

Make sure you avail yourself of a taste!

I thank and congratulate Jodie and her team for their unique contribution to our Mountains community and the world.