

# media release



**MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY**

Master Builders Association of Victoria  
ABN: 38 004 255 654

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## **Abbott, Guy and Kekovich to headline Master Builders Yarra Valley Conference**

High profile politicians Tony Abbott and Matthew Guy and Australia's famous 'lambassador' Sam Kekovich will headline the 2012 Master Builders Members' Conference from today in the Yarra Valley.

The three day event will take place from February 9 to 11 at The Sebel Heritage with about 200 industry representatives discussing issues such as the building and construction economy, industrial relations and planning.

"We're proud to support the Yarra Valley which was chosen because of its spectacular scenery, luxury accommodation, varied retail and entertainment precincts and the Sebel Heritage's championship golf course," Executive Director Brian Welch said.

Addressing the conference on Friday, Federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott will speak about the future of Industrial Relations in the building industry. This hot topic is a contentious issue in the building and construction industry at the moment with a review of the Australian Building and Construction Commission underway.

State Planning Minister Matthew Guy will also present on Friday, focusing on his various reforms implemented over the past year as well as the role of planning as a catalyst for Victoria's continued economic success and prosperity.

Mr Kekovich will open the conference on Thursday night with what is sure to be an entertaining speech. The former AFL footballer is known for his catch phrase 'You know it makes sense: I'm Sam Kekovich' and actively advocates the goodness of lamb in the Australian diet through witty advertisements for the Meat and Livestock Association.

Sam Kekovich's presentations are always anecdotal and extremely humorous as he brings together all his best stories and the characters he has encountered over the last 30 plus years of his involvement in football, and life.

Mr Welch said the three speakers would provide a good balance of information and entertainment.

"All three guest speakers are high profile and we look forward to them bringing their own experiences to our attention as we look at the issues confronting our industry," he said.

"Mr Abbott and Mr Guy are both well respected community leaders who will provide unique perspectives on issues that are important to our members.

"We are also very excited about enjoying the wit and humour of such a big personality as Sam Kekovich. It's sure to be an excellent event."

**Media welcome – please contact Laura Luvara on (03) 9411 4534 for more information.**

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