

# Australia's Tourism Industry Reunites to Celebrate Excellence

Sunshine Coast, QLD 18 March 2022 – Tonight at the Novotel Sunshine Coast Convention Centre in QLD, Australia's tourism industry reunited to celebrate tourism business excellence at the 2021 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience were inducted into the Australian Tourism Awards Hall of Fame for taking the top honours in Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries for the past three years.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria took home gold for Major Tourist Attraction, as did Saffire Freycinet in 5 Star Luxury Accommodation and Freemantle Prison for Cultural Tourism. Other winners include Ingenia Holidays South West Rocks for Caravan and Holiday Parks, Beach Huts Middleton for 3-3.5 Star Accommodation, Darwin Convention Centre for Business Event venues and Red Cat Adventures for Adventure Tourism.

Overall there were 75 awards presented across 25 categories.

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk congratulated the latest Awards recipients.

"The Australian Tourism Awards is a celebration of adaptability and creativity across the tourism industry, and we're proud to have welcomed so many industry leaders and innovators to Queensland's spectacular Sunshine Coast for the Awards this year," Premier Palaszczuk said.

"It's been a joy to celebrate a sector that has shown determination and innovation in the face of a global pandemic.

"Pre-pandemic, Queensland's tourism industry alone was worth around \$28 billion and employed more than 234,000. I'm grateful to all the recipients and nominees who have, and who will continue to contribute to our economic recovery from the pandemic and beyond."

Qantas Group Chief Customer Office Stephanie Tully said: "As the national carrier, we're delighted to be celebrating and championing the best of the industry after a particularly tough two years for Australian tourism.

"We've seen travel demand rebound strongly this year and we're really excited to help travellers from home and abroad rediscover this amazing country and support Australian tourism operators to get back to doing what they do best."

Queensland Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the Awards recognised the Australian tourism industry's commitment to recovery.

"It is a great honour to welcome Australia's visitor industry to the Sunshine Coast for the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards," Mr Hinchliffe said.

"Over the last two years, resilient tourism operators have sought and found opportunities to build back better.

"The Australian Tourism Awards highlight the initiative of operators striving for recovery and excellence in the delivery of outstanding visitor experiences.

"As we rebuild inbound international tourism, these awards are a great opportunity to show the world and the nation the best of Australian tourism."

The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, which were also proudly supported by the Queensland Government, were a celebration of the industry's resilience and strength, during the incredible challenges the industry has faced over the past two years.

Daniel Gschwind, Chair of the Australian Tourism Awards said that it is testament to the commitment of Australian tourism operators who continue to deliver excellent experiences with sheer passion and commitment throughout the challenges.

"The businesses that are here tonight have led the way in reimagining their products so they can continue to provide quality visitor experiences throughout the pandemic. With our open borders and international tourism resuming, tonight is a timely reminder of the vast range of exceptional tourism products and services available and to focus on a strong tourism future for Australia" said Mr Gschwind.

Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson said it was an exciting night for tourism operators that showcased how important the national tourism industry was for the economy.

"Hosting the Awards gave us the means to showcase our very own distinct Sunshine Coast tourism experiences to industry peers from across the nation, and notably, our welcoming spirit," Mayor Jamieson said.

"Montville's Narrows Escape Rainforest Retreat taking gold for Hosted Accommodation is wonderful acknowledgement of a tourism operator's ambition to provide outstanding service and encourage visitation to our beautiful Sunshine Coast.

The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards celebrates innovation and exceptional standards in tourism; and is made possible through the generosity of sponsors, in particular Qantas, Tourism Australia, the Queensland Government, Novotel Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Council, Visit Sunshine Coast and the Sunshine Coast Airport.

The full list of winners is listed below.

**Further Details:**

Erin McLeod

General Manager ATIC

P: 0408 072 668

E: [emcleod@QualityTourismAustralia.com](mailto:emcleod@QualityTourismAustralia.com)

## GOLD WINNERS

State	Category	Company
QLD	07. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism	Spirits of the Red Sand
VIC	24. New Tourism Business	Wilsons Promontory Cruises
TAS	12. Tour & Transport Operators	Gordon River Cruises
TAS	11. Major Tour & Transport Operators	Pennicott Wilderness Journeys Pty Ltd
WA	20. Self Contained Accommodation	Tree Chalets
QLD	18. Hosted Accommodation	Narrows Escape Rainforest Retreat
TAS	19. Unique Accommodation	Pumphouse Point
NSW	17. Caravan & Holiday Parks	Ingenia Holidays South West Rocks
QLD	13. Adventure Tourism	Red Cat Adventures
WA	06. Cultural Tourism	Fremantle Prison
WA	05. Ecotourism	Live Ningaloo
VIC	14. Tourism Marketing & Campaigns	Destination Gippsland
VIC	25. Excellence In Food Tourism	Green Olive at Red Hill
TAS	15. Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services	Mures Tasmania
QLD	16. Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries	Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience
SA	21. 3-3.5 Star Accommodation	Beach Huts Middleton
QLD	22. 4-4.5 Star Accommodation	Empire Apartment Hotel
TAS	23. 5 Star Accommodation	Saffire Freycinet
TAS	09. Visitor Information Services	Wonders of Wynyard Exhibition and Visitor Information Centre
NT	10. Business Event Venues	Darwin Convention Centre
TAS	08. Tourism Retail & Hire Services	Coal River Farm
VIC	04. Festivals & Events	Ballarat City Council - Ballarat Heritage Festival
QLD	03. Major Festivals & Events	Beef Australia Limited
NT	02. Tourist Attractions	Katherine Outback Experience
VIC	01. Major Tourist Attractions	Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

## SILVER WINNERS

State	Category	Company
ACT	02. Tourist Attractions	National Arboretum Canberra
ACT	03. Major Festivals & Events	National Gallery of Australia
NSW	16. Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries	Heifer Station Wines Pty Ltd
NSW	19. Unique Accommodation	Sierra Escape
NT	06. Cultural Tourism	Venture North Safaris
QLD	01. Major Tourist Attractions	Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary
QLD	10. Business Event Venues	Empire Apartment Hotel
QLD	11. Major Tour & Transport Operators	Red Cat Adventures
QLD	17. Caravan & Holiday Parks	Julia Creek Caravan Park
QLD	20. Self Contained Accommodation	Pinnacles Resort
SA	13. Adventure Tourism	Bendleby Ranges
SA	05. Ecotourism	Murray River Trails
SA	08. Tourism Retail & Hire Services	Vasse Virgin at Seppeltsfield
TAS	22. 4-4.5 Star Accommodation	MACq 01 Hotel
TAS	24. New Tourism Business	Kittawa Lodge
TAS	25. Excellence In Food Tourism	Coal River Farm
TAS	07. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism	wukalina Walk
VIC	15. Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services	Alexandra Hotel
VIC	18. Hosted Accommodation	Heytesbury House
VIC	21. 3-3.5 Star Accommodation	Alexandra Hotel
VIC	09. Visitor Information Services	Bendigo Visitor Centre
WA	12. Tour & Transport Operators	The Hike Collective
WA	14. Tourism Marketing & Campaigns	WAITOC
WA	23. 5 Star Accommodation	Pullman Bunker Bay Resort Margaret River Region
WA	04. Festivals & Events	CinefestOZ

## BRONZE WINNERS

State	Category	Company
ACT	06. Cultural Tourism	Royal Australian Mint
NSW	01. Major Tourist Attractions	Taronga Western Plains Zoo
NSW	14. Tourism Marketing & Campaigns	Mudgee Region Tourism
NSW	02. Tourist Attractions	Oakvale Wildlife Park
NSW	20. Self Contained Accommodation	Riverside Holiday Resort Urunga
NSW	22. 4-4.5 Star Accommodation	The Byng Street Boutique Hotel
NT	12. Tour & Transport Operators	Uluru Camel Tours
QLD	23. 5 Star Accommodation	InterContinental Hayman Island Resort
QLD	04. Festivals & Events	Isaac Regional Council - Economy and Prosperity Department
QLD	08. Tourism Retail & Hire Services	Pelican Boat Hire
QLD	09. Visitor Information Services	Longreach Visitor Information Centre
SA	15. Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services	The Guardsman
SA	16. Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries	Seppeltsfield Wines
SA	19. Unique Accommodation	Woodhouse Activity Centre
SA	24. New Tourism Business	Eos by SkyCity
TAS	10. Business Event Venues	Peppers Silo Hotel
TAS	18. Hosted Accommodation	Ashdowns of Dover Bed and Breakfast
TAS	05. Ecotourism	Tasmanian Walking Company
VIC	11. Major Tour & Transport Operators	Searoad Ferries
VIC	03. Major Festivals & Events	Tesselaar Tulip Festival
WA	13. Adventure Tourism	Geronimo Rottnest
WA	17. Caravan & Holiday Parks	Kimberleyland Waterfront Holiday Park
WA	21. 3-3.5 Star Accommodation	SurfPoint Resort
WA	25. Excellence In Food Tourism	The Trustee for Two Feet and A Heartbeat Unit Trust
WA	07. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism	Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours and Experiences