

#### 15 March 2024

#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

# Winners of the 2023 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards celebrated in Darwin

The nation's tourism industry gathered tonight for the announcement of the winners and medallists of the 2023 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

Over 180 leading tourism operators vied for top honours across the 26 categories announced at the industry's premier event, held at the Darwin Convention Centre.

"The Australian Tourism Awards are the tourism industry's most prestigious awards which showcases innovation and business excellence," said Shaun de Bruyn, Chairperson, Australian Tourism Awards.

"There was an exceptional level of competition across all categories which demonstrates the dedication tourism operators have to developing extraordinary visitor experiences," he said.

"Congratulations to all the tourism businesses for their submissions and a special mention goes to those awarded and recognised this evening for exceptional achievement in their categories," he said.

This year's event saw the introduction of the Excellence in Accessible Tourism award, encouraging more tourism businesses to implement inclusive business practices and offer accessible-friendly tourism products, services and experiences."

"With the introduction of the Excellence in Accessible Tourism category, we hope to see more businesses adapting their products to be inclusive, and to see more visitors enjoy and experience our incredible Australian destinations," said Mr de Bruyn.

Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism said "Tourism businesses and their staff are the backbone of our vibrant tourism industry, delivering world class experiences to visitors from across Australia and around the world. The bright future of the sector couldn't be in better hands."

The awards were supported by returning naming rights sponsor, Qantas, as well as Platinum Sponsor, Tourism Australia, and Host Partners, the Northern Territory Government and Tourism NT. The awards were also supported by numerous Partners and Sponsors including GetAboutAble, the Big Red Group, Darwin Convention Centre, the Airport Development Group and Signature Media.

For more information on the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, visit http://www.qualitytourismaustralia.com/australian-tourism-awards/

The list of National winners is listed below. Images and interviews with award recipients can be arranged on request.

#### - Ends -

# Media Contact: Shaun de Bruyn, Chair Australian Tourism Awards, 0419 841 190

The following is the list of National winners at the 2023 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards. Images and interviews with award recipients can be arranged on request.

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism Experience**

GOLD – wukalina Walk TAS SILVER – Cape York Peninsula Lodge QLD BRONZE – Ngurrangga Tours WA

### **Ecotourism**

GOLD – Fun Over 50 Holidays - Immersive Tours and Adventures QLD SILVER – Sydney by Kayak NSW BRONZE – National Arboretum Canberra CBR

#### **Self Contained Accommodation**

GOLD – The Woods Ocean Grove VIC SILVER – Tree Chalets WA BRONZE – The Granary | Richmond Hill TAS

### **Unique Accommodation**

GOLD – Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm WA SILVER – Jamala Wildlife Lodge CBR BRONZE – Woodhouse Adventure Park SA

### **Hosted Accommodation**

GOLD – The Dragonfly Inn TAS SILVER – Narrows Escape Rainforest Retreat QLD BRONZE – Kangaroo Ridge Retreat VIC

# Caravan & Holiday Parks

GOLD – BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort QLD SILVER – Alivio Tourist Park Canberra CBR BRONZE – NRMA Phillip Island Beachfront Holiday Park VIC

### **Tourism Marketing & Campaigns**

GOLD – The Tweed Tourism Company NSW
SILVER – Rockhampton Regional Council - Explore Rockhampton QLD
BRONZE – BIG Reasons to visit Mandurah - Visit Mandurah WA

## **New Tourism Business**

GOLD – On Board TAS
SILVER – Nexus Airlines WA
BRONZE – Port River Cruises SA

### **Visitor Information Services**

GOLD – Canberra and Region Visitors Centre CBR SILVER – Mandurah Visitor Centre WA BRONZE – Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre SA

#### 3 - 3.5 Star Accommodation

GOLD – Urban Camp Melbourne VIC SILVER – ibis Adelaide SA BRONZE – Magnums Accommodation Airlie Beach QLD

### 4 - 4.5 Star Deluxe Accommodation

GOLD – Beach Huts Middleton SA SILVER – Ship Inn Stanley TAS BRONZE – Cape York Peninsula Lodge QLD

## **5 Star Luxury Accommodation**

GOLD – The Reef House Boutique Hotel and Spa | Adults Tropical Escapes QLD SILVER – Chocolate Gannets VIC BRONZE – Pullman Bunker Bay Resort WA

### **Business Event Venues**

GOLD – Darwin Convention Centre NT SILVER – Peppers Silo Hotel TAS BRONZE – Pullman Bunker Bay Resort WA

### **Tour & Transport Operators**

GOLD – Air Adventure Golf TAS SILVER – Swan River Seaplanes WA BRONZE – NT Bird Specialists Birding & Photographic Safaris NT

### **Major Tour & Transport Operators**

GOLD – Pennicott Wilderness Journeys TAS SILVER – Ocean Rafting QLD BRONZE – Searoad Ferries VIC

## **Adventure Tourism**

GOLD – Ocean Rafting QLD SILVER – Bendleby Ranges SA BRONZE – Balloon Aloft Australia NSW

### **Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services**

GOLD – Grain of the Silos TAS SILVER – Potager NSW BRONZE – CORE Cider House WA

## **Tourism Retail, Hire and Services**

GOLD – Origins Market WA SILVER – The Museum Shop at the National Museum of Australia CBR BRONZE – Go Adventure Nagambie VIC

## **Excellence in Accessible Tourism**

GOLD – Adelaide Fringe SA SILVER – Accessible Accommodation VIC BRONZE – Katherine Outback Experience NT

#### **Excellence in Food Tourism**

GOLD – Love Lord Howe NSW SILVER – The Truffle Farm - Home of Australia's first black Truffle TAS BRONZE – Adelaide Showground Farmers' Market SA

## **Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries**

GOLD – Bangor Vineyard Shed TAS SILVER – Seppeltsfield Wines SA BRONZE – Billson's Brewery VIC

# **Cultural Tourism**

GOLD – Royal Australian Mint CBR SILVER – Fun Over 50 Holidays - Immersive Tours and Adventures QLD BRONZE – Geelong Gallery VIC

## **Tourist Attractions**

GOLD – Katherine Outback Experience NT SILVER – Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience QLD BRONZE – d'Arenberg SA

### **Major Tourist Attractions**

GOLD – Australian Reptile Park NSW SILVER – Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary QLD BRONZE – Zoos Victoria - Melbourne Zoo VIC

## **Festivals and Events**

GOLD – National Capital Authority - Lights on the Lake CBR SILVER – 2023 Ord Valley Muster WA BRONZE – Tumbafest Inc NSW

# **Major Festivals and Events**

GOLD – Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers QLD SILVER – Tesselaar KaBloom VIC BRONZE – Darwin Festival NT