



Friday 26th February

World class tourism award winners announced.

Australian tourism operators have celebrated their achievements at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, held tonight, Friday 26 February at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.

Winners were announced from 27 categories covering the many sectors of the diverse tourism industry.

Highlights of the evening included wins to **Melbourne Aquarium** for major tourist attraction, South Australia's **2009 Tour Down Under** for major festival and events, **Longitude 131** from the Northern Territory for unique accommodation and **Big 4 Beacon Resort** for Tourist and Caravan parks. A full list of winners is attached.

Steve Limbrick, Executive Manager Australia Sales, Qantas, this year announced joint winners of the Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism.

"Qantas introduced this award two years ago as part of an industry wide approach to sustainable tourism. The award was introduced to encourage Australian Tourism Operators to minimise their impact on the environment. We are pleased to see so many businesses entering the awards and doing their bit for the environment, and congratulate this year's award winners on their efforts."

"**Skyrail** in Queensland, continues to show leadership in its contribution to improving local environmental conditions through sustainable construction, revegetation, and the Sky Rail Rainforest Foundation. It is a complete rainforest experience.

Crystal Creek Meadows Luxury Cottages and Spa Retreat in the Kangaroo Valley of NSW have introduced policies to make their business more sustainable and have significantly reduced their green house gas emissions whilst at the same time seeing occupancy rise."

The national Outstanding Contribution Award was won by **Stephen Gregg** of Queensland. Through Stephen's consistent and persistent work, he has contributed greatly to the capacity and growth of the Australian Tourism Industry. Based on an impressive track record, his innovative insight is sought out by many across industry, government and academia.

Over 800 industry leaders attended the event, with an audience including state and territory tourism ministers and Federal Minister for Tourism Martin Ferguson.

The awards are organised annually by the National Tourism Alliance (NTA) on behalf of the Australian tourism industry.

National Tourism Alliance chairman Col Hughes congratulated all winners for their achievements, and announced a range of exciting changes to the Awards, including innovative ways to bring the winners and finalists to the attention of their customers.

The night was hosted by award winning adventurer Sorrel Wilby.

Qantas, along with other sponsors, Tourism Australia, Tourism Tasmania, Weekend Australian Magazine, Southern Cross, Hardie Grant Travel, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Scene Change, AAA Tourism, Hostplus, KPMG, Datatrx Tourism Touchscreens, Wine Tasmania and Lion Nathan, have generously supported this year's national Awards.

More information about the 2009 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, can be found at <http://www.tourismalliance.org/tourismalliance/TourismAwards.html>.

For information, photos or interviews, please contact Nicole Sheridan at the National Tourism Alliance on 0411 114 176 or nicole@tourismalliance.org.

QANTAS AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS 2009 WINNERS

Category	Winner	State	Highly Commended
Major Tourist Attractions	Melbourne Aquarium	VIC	
Tourist Attractions	Questacon - The National Science & Technology Centre	ACT	Booderee National Park (NSW)
Major Festivals and Events	2009 Tour Down Under	SA	
Festivals and Events	National Folk Festival	ACT	Julia Creek Dirt & Dust Festival (QLD)
Ecotourism	Bruny Island Cruises	TAS	
Heritage and Cultural Tourism	Old Melbourne Gaol Crime and Justice Experience	VIC	
Indigenous Tourism	Booderee National Park	NSW	Arnhem Land Eco-Cultural Tours (NT)
Specialised Tourism Services	Mornington Peninsula Tourism	VIC	
Visitor Information Services	Brisbane Visitor Information and Booking Centre	QLD	
Meetings and Business Tourism	Adelaide Convention Centre	SA	
Major Tour and/or Transport Operator	Connections Safaris	NT	
Tour and/or Transport Operator	Sydney Seaplanes	NSW	
Adventure Tourism	Passions of Paradise	QLD	
Tourism Marketing	Pure Tasmania	TAS	
Tourism Education and Training	Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School	NSW	
Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services	Bent on Food	NSW	
Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Boutique Breweries	De Bortoli Winery and Restaurant	VIC	
Tourist and Caravan Parks	BIG4 Beacon Resort	VIC	
Backpackers Accommodation	Sydney Central YHA	NSW	
Hosted Accommodation	Hidden Valley Cabins	QLD	
Unique Accommodation	Longitude 131	NT	
Standard Accommodation	Noorla Heritage Resort	QLD	
Deluxe Accommodation	Avalon Coastal Retreat	TAS	
Luxury Accommodation	SKYCITY Darwin	NT	
New Tourism Development	Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse Holiday Accommodation	NSW	
Qantas Award for Sustainable Tourism	Skyrail Rainforest Cableway and Crystal Creek Meadows Luxury Cottages & Spa Retreat	QLD and NSW	
Outstanding Contribution by an Individual (National)	Stephen Gregg	QLD	