



Winners for tourism excellence celebrate success.

Australian tourism operators celebrated their success at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, held on Friday 11th March at the Burswood Entertainment Complex, Perth.

These were the 26th Annual Australian Tourism Awards, where industry recognises tourism businesses that strive for excellence in every area of their operation.

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

National Tourism Alliance chairman, Col Hughes, congratulated all finalists and winners. "The standard of our finalists this year was particularly high, which gives me great confidence about the future of our industry. To win at the national level is a great achievement".

Highlights of the evening included wins to **Taronga Zoo (NSW)** for major tourist attraction, **Santos Tour Down Under (SA)** for major festival and events, **The Old Woolstore Hotel (TAS)** for deluxe accommodation, **Ecobeach Wilderness Retreat (WA)** for unique accommodation, **Max's at Red Hill Estate (VIC)** for tourism restaurants and catering services and **Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours (Qld)** for adventure tourism. A full list of winners is attached.

There were two Hall of Fame winners this year - **Skycity Darwin (NT)** for Luxury Accommodation and **Sydney Central YHA (NSW)** for Backpacker Accommodation. These outstanding businesses have won their category nationally for three consecutive years.

Steve Limbrick, Executive Manager Australia Sales, Qantas, announced the winner of the Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism.

'Qantas is proud to sponsor the Australian Tourism Awards and it is wonderful to see a diverse range of Australian businesses being recognised for their contribution to the Australian tourism industry. Qantas launched the Sustainable Tourism Award to encourage Australian Tourism Operators to minimise their impact on the environment and showcase Australia to domestic and international tourists as one of the world's leading sustainable tourism destinations. We congratulate **Lane Cove River Tourist Park (NSW)** on winning the award this evening," Mr Limbrick said.

The national **Outstanding Contribution Award by an Individual** was won by **Ian Laurance AM** from Western Australia. Ian has made a significant contribution to the tourism industry in Australia over a period spanning over 40 years – in government, business and in a voluntary capacity on several tourism boards and committees.

Over 900 industry leaders and operators attended the event, with an audience including the Federal Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism, Martin Ferguson and state and territory tourism ministers.

With a menu designed by Neil Perry, and wines from Western Australia the evening was full of surprises and entertainment.

The Australian Tourism Awards are presented annually by the National Tourism Alliance (NTA) on behalf of the Australian tourism industry. This year the event was produced in partnership with Tourism Council WA.

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 2010 WINNERS

Category	Winner	State	Highly Commended
Major Tourist Attractions	Taronga Zoo	NSW	
Tourist Attractions	Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours	QLD	
Major Festivals and Events	Santos Tour Down Under	SA	
Festivals and Events	Temora Aviation Museum - Sabre Launch	NSW	
Ecotourism	Lane Cove River Tourist Park	NSW	
Heritage and Cultural Tourism	The Workshops Rail Museum	QLD	
Indigenous Tourism	Mutawintji Eco-tours	NSW	
Specialised Tourism Services	Mornington Peninsula Tourism	VIC	
Visitor Information and Services	Bendigo Visitor Centre	VIC	
Meetings and Business Tourism	Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre	QLD	
Major Tour and/or Transport Operators	Fantasea Adventure Cruising	QLD	Intrepid Connections NT Tour (NT)
Tour and/or Transport Operators	Tri State Safaris	NSW	
Adventure Tourism	Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours	QLD	
Tourism Marketing	Destination Gippsland	VIC	
Tourism Education and Training	Queensland Department Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management	QLD	Holmesglen Tourism (VIC)
Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services	Max's at Red Hill Estate	VIC	
Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Boutique Breweries	Wyndham Estate Cellar Door	NSW	
Tourist and Caravan Parks	Cairns Coconut Holiday Resort	QLD	
Backpacker Accommodation	Sydney Central YHA	NSW	HALL OF FAME
Hosted Accommodation	Seppeltsfield Vineyard Cottage	SA	
Unique Accommodation	Eco Beach Wilderness Retreat	WA	Rose Gums (QLD)
Standard Accommodation	Scone Motor Inn	NSW	
Deluxe Accommodation	The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel	TAS	azjzure Studio Retreat (QLD)
Luxury Accommodation	SKYCITY Darwin	NT	HALL OF FAME
New Tourism Development	Sydney Harbour YHA	NSW	
Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism.	Lane Cove River Tourist Park	NSW	
Outstanding Contribution by an Individual (National)	Ian Laurance	WA	

Qantas, Tourism Australia, Tourism Western Australia, Weekend Australian Magazine, Hardie Grant Travel, Burswood Entertainment Complex, Staging Connections, City of Perth, Sunday Times, KPMG, and Hostplus, have generously supported this years Australian Tourism Awards.