

18 November 2021

## **HUNTER BUSINESS LEADERS HONOURED AT NSW TOURISM AWARDS**

Hunter business leaders have shone at the NSW Tourism Industry Council's prestigious **NSW Tourism Awards**.

Held last night in the iconic Luna Park Sydney's Big Top, over 450 industry representatives gathered for the first time in three years to celebrate the state's outstanding tourism businesses.

Business Hunter CEO, Bob Hawes congratulated all winners and finalists, highlighting strong representation across the Hunter and Mid North Coast.

"Our region is well served by businesses seeking to push the bar higher and we're proud to see their efforts recognised in such a meaningful way. It's been an incredibly challenging few years with back-to-back natural disaster events, the pandemic and energy and fuel prices all putting pressure on business operators in this sector," said Mr Hawes.

"The visitor economy provides vital economic diversification for our region and will play an increasingly important role as we continue to navigate transformation associated with the evolution of our traditional energy industries. These awards offer an opportunity to celebrate well-earned recognition and help foster a culture of excellence that will see us remain a region of choice for domestic and international visitors alike."

The awards are managed by the NSW Tourism Industry Council powered by **Business NSW**, the state's peak business organisation, and supported by the NSW Government via its tourism and major events agency, **Destination NSW**.

Winners in the designated national award categories will represent NSW at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards to be held in Sydney, 17 March 2023.

### **2022 NSW Tourism Award Winners:**

#### **Major Tourist Attractions**

Gold: [Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo](#)

Silver: [The Australian Reptile Park, Somersby](#)

Bronze: The Big Banana Fun Park, Coffs Harbour

#### **Tourist Attractions**

Gold: [Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail, Port Macquarie](#)

Silver: Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary

Bronze: [Aussie Ark, Barrington Tops](#)

#### **Major Festivals and Events**

Gold: Bluesfest Byron Bay

Silver: GLOW at Sydney Zoo

#### **Festivals and Events**

Gold: Tumbafest Inc, Tumbarumba

Silver: Bathurst Winter Festival

Bronze: The Coffs Coast Food & Wine Festival

**Ecotourism**

Gold: Sydney by Kayak, Lavender Bay  
Silver: Vision Walks - Eco Tours, Byron Bay  
Bronze: Tweed Eco Cruises, Tweed Heads

**Cultural Tourism**

Gold: Local Sauce Tours, Sydney  
Silver: Old Dubbo Gaol  
Bronze: Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail, Port Macquarie

**Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism**

Gold: Wajaana Yaam Gumbaynggirr Adventure Tours, Coffs Harbour  
Silver: Bundy Cultural Tours, Wagga Wagga  
Bronze: Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation, Coffs Harbour

**Tourism Retail & Hire Services**

Gold: Sydney Harbour Kayaks, The Spit Bridge, Mosman  
Silver: Ask Roz Blue Mountains

**Visitor Information Services**

Gold: Mudgee Region Tourism  
Silver: Bathurst Visitor Information Centre  
Bronze: Eden Visitor Information Centre, Sapphire Coast

**Business Event Venues**

Gold: Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains by MGallery  
Silver: Fullerton Hotel Sydney

**Tour and/or Transport Operators**

Gold: Tweed Eco Cruises, Tweed Heads  
Silver: Beyond Ballooning, Lovedale  
Bronze: Blue Mountains Stargazing

**Adventure Tourism**

Gold: Balloon Aloft, Hunter Valley, Camden Valley, Mudgee and Byron Bay  
Silver: Sydney Harbour Kayaks, The Spit Bridge, Mosman  
Bronze: Beyond Ballooning, Lovedale

**Tourism Marketing and Campaigns**

Gold: MidCoast Council: Destination Barrington Coast  
Silver: Shoalhaven City Council, Tourism  
Bronze: The Tweed Tourism Company

**Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services**

Gold: Potager, Carool  
Silver: Bent on Food, Wingham  
Bronze: Antica Australis, Carcoar

**Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries**

Gold: Courabyra Wines, Tumbarumba

**Caravan and Holiday Parks**

Gold: North Star Holiday Resort, Hastings Point

Silver: NRMA Ocean Beach Holiday Resort, Central Coast  
Bronze: BIG4 Deniliquin Holiday Park

**Hosted Accommodation**

Gold: Blueberry Hills on Comleroy, Kurrajong  
Silver: Belle Bois, Capertee Valley  
Bronze: Amaroo Valley Springs, Kurrajong

**Unique Accommodation**

Gold: Zoofari Lodge, Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo  
Silver: Glenayr Farm Mudgee  
Bronze: Berger Houseboat Holidays, Tweed Heads

**Self-Contained Accommodation**

Gold: Bandalong Cottages, Mudgee  
Silver: Peppertree Hill, Mudgee  
Bronze: Mt Warning Estate, Dum Dum

**4 – 4.5 Star Accommodation**

Gold: The Byng Street Boutique Hotel, Orange  
Silver: Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains by MGallery  
Bronze: Wildlife Retreat at Taronga, Mosman

**5 Star Accommodation**

Gold: Mt Hay Retreat, Berry  
Silver: Kalinya Estate, Bargo

**New Tourism Business**

Gold: Italian Cooking Experience with Stefano Marvella, Bowral  
Silver: Navigate Expeditions, Sapphire Coast  
Bronze: Evamor Valley, Mudgee

**Excellence in Food Tourism**

Gold: Margan Wines & Restaurant, Broke  
Silver: Food I Am, Wagga Wagga  
Bronze: Country Food Trails, Orange

**Excellence in Accessible Tourism\***

Gold/ Hall of Fame: Riverside Holiday Resort Urunga  
Silver: Cocky Guides, Sydney  
Bronze: Sea Horse Diamond Beach

**Local Government Award for Tourism\***

Gold: MidCoast Council: Destination Barrington Coast  
Silver: Central Coast Council - Destination Central Coast

**Dean Gorddard Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual\***

Winner: Donna Carrier

**Judges' Tourism Star Award\***

Joint Winners:

- Glenayr Farm, Mudgee
- Love Lord Howe

**Ground Swell 2022 Commendation presented by Take 3 for the Sea\***

From First Wave, Take 3's tourism industry pilot project in 2021 through to the current 2022 Ground Swell Program, *Take 3 for the Sea* has engaged with 160 tourism businesses of all kinds. For the first time, *Take 3 for the Sea* commended three businesses, each of which have made significant contributions to visitor litter reduction under the program. Not only have they embraced the Take 3 philosophy, these businesses have shown leadership by taking ownership and action to prevent litter.

Commendations:

- F.O.C.K. Festival of Canoe and Kayak, Gangurung, Kangaroo Valley
- Niigi Niigi - Sealy Lookout, Coffs Harbour – a Ground Swell collaboration between Forestry Corporation, Wajaana Yaam Gumbaynggirr Adventure Tours and Treetops Adventure
- Glenworth Valley Outdoor Adventures, Central Coast

*\*Does not progress to the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards*

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