



Media release

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NSW triumphs at 2023 Australian Tourism Awards

The NSW tourism sector was honoured at last night's 2023 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, with a total of seven outstanding NSW businesses recognised. A record three NSW visitor economy operators brought home gold trophies in their categories.

The coveted Gold trophy in the Major Tourist Attractions category was awarded to the Australian Reptile Park on the Central Coast, small business Love Lord Howe took out Gold in the Excellence in Food Tourism and The Tweed Tourism Company won Gold in the Tourism Marketing & Campaigns category.

Silver medals were awarded to Potager for Tourism Restaurant & Catering Services and Sydney by Kayak for Ecotourism. Balloon Aloft Australia for Adventure Tourism and Tumbafest for Festivals & Events were also acknowledged and were awarded Bronze medals.

Hosted by the Australian Tourism Industry Council, the ceremony celebrated the outstanding achievements of individuals and businesses across the state's visitor economy, with 23 tourism operators from Tweed Heads to Tumbarumba among the finalists, confirming NSW is delivering the nation's best products and experiences to international and domestic visitors.

The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards is the tourism council's national standard of excellence, recognising and honouring exceptional businesses and individuals who have shown dedication and innovation to elevate the tourism experience to a whole new level for local visitors and travelling guests.

The NSW Government has dedicated funding programs and initiatives such as the Regional Event Fund and Vibrancy Reforms, along with strategic investment in critical infrastructure, including Aerotropolis and Western Sydney International Airport to instil confidence in the NSW visitor economy, setting the course for a prosperous and vibrant future for the state.

NSW WINNERS IN THE 2023 QANTAS AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS

- Major Tourist Attractions - Australian Reptile Park, Somersby (Gold)
- Excellence in Food Tourism - Love Lord Howe, Lord Howe Island (Gold)
- Tourism Marketing & Campaigns - The Tweed Tourism Company, Tweed Heads (Gold)
- Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services – Potager, Carool (Silver)
- Ecotourism - Sydney by Kayak, Lavendar Bay (Silver)
- Adventure Tourism - Balloon Aloft Australia (Bronze)
- Festivals & Events - Tumbafest Inc, Tumbarumba (Bronze)

NSW FINALISTS IN 2023 QANTAS AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS

Major Tourist Attractions - Australian Reptile Park, Somersby

Tourist Attractions - Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary
Major Festivals & Events - Tamworth Country Music Festival
Festivals & Events - Tumbafest Inc, Tumbarumba
Ecotourism - Sydney by Kayak, Lavendar Bay
Cultural Tourism - Local Sauce Tours, Sydney
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Tourism Experience - Giingan Gumbaynggirr Cultural Experience, Coffs Harbour
Tourism Retail and Hire Services - Sydney Harbour Kayaks, Mosman
Visitor Information Services - Bathurst Visitor Information Centre
Business Event Venues - Crowne Plaza Terrigal Pacific, Central Coast
Major Tour & Transport Operators - Moonshadow-TQC Cruise, Nelson Bay
Tour & Transport Operators - Vision Walks – Eco Tours, Byron Bay
Adventure Tourism - Balloon Aloft Australia
Tourism Marketing & Campaigns - The Tweed Tourism Company, Tweed Heads
Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services – Potager, Carool
Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries - Husk Farm Distillery, North Tumbulgum
Unique Accommodation - Diamond Waters Treehouse Retreat, Camden Haven
Self Contained Accommodation - Peppertree Collection, Mudgee
4-4.5 Star Deluxe Accommodation - Oriana Retro Hotel and Resort, Orange
5 Star Luxury Accommodation - Kalinya Estate, Bargo
New Tourism Business - Contained in Nimbin Accommodation, Nimbin
Excellence in Food Tourism - Love Lord Howe, Lord Howe Island
Excellence in Accessible Tourism - Cocky Guides

For a full list of winners and runners up, visit the Australian Tourism Awards website:

<https://www.qualitytourismaustralia.com/australian-tourism-awards/>

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