



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
16 November, 2019

Winners of the 2019 Adventure Tourism Awards

Adventure Queensland (AQ), is excited to announce the winners of the 2019 Adventure Tourism Awards. Now in its second year, the Adventure Tourism Awards have proved itself a valuable event to showcase outstanding businesses within this important sector across Australia and New Zealand.

Businesses both big and small were recognised for their achievements across 34 categories on Thursday 14 November at The Island Gold Coast.

The event was organised by Adventure Queensland (AQ), the peak backpacking and independent travel industry body for Queensland, who last year identified the need for industry collaboration within the Australian and New Zealand youth tourism sector. Working alongside Backpacker Operators Association NSW (BOA) and the Backpacker Youth Tourism Advisory Panel (BYTAP), the Adventure Tourism Awards provided an opportunity for industry members to come together and celebrate outstanding contribution and excellence.

2018/19 Vice President of Adventure Queensland, Anita Butler said that it was great to see over 350 people travel to the Gold Coast to celebrate the 2019 Youth Tourism Conference and Adventure Tourism Awards and support each other's hard work and success.

"The Adventure Tourism sector is a vital part of the Australian and New Zealand tourism offering. These awards are made extra special with the inclusion of 30% consumer voting and the expert individual judging panel weighted evenly for the remaining 70% of final scoring."

"This year, the awards covered 34 categories including 4 new categories for Cultural Tourism and the separation of National Tour and National Activity categories to differentiate between multi-day and single day tours. The awards recognise the best of the best in travel agencies, tour/activity, innovation, cultural tourism, sustainability and accommodation. Entrants were judged based on their individual points of difference, unique selling points, customer reviews, business achievements and their links to the Adventure Tourism industry."

"Congratulations to all the finalists and winners of the night. Your passion and commitment for our segment is evident and the achievement is so very well deserved!" Anita said.

The ceremony was put together by the volunteer based AQ committee with the amazing help from the team at Oz Party Events and in a true example of industry collaboration has only been made possible due to the wonderful support of sponsors such as Tourism Australia, Smart Bunks, Destination Gold Coast, Griffith University, Tourism Noosa, Allsopp Bunting Insurance, Adventium Technology, TMS Talent, Bookme, Ocean Rafting, The Island Gold Coast, BUNK, and Disaronno.

General Manager for The Millet Group in NSW, Andrew Cowan received the Young Industry Legend Award, while the Chair of Tourism Noosa and former Secretary of AQ (20 years), Drew Pearson, took home the Industry Legend Award.

2019 Adventure Tourism Awards Winners

CATEGORY	WINNER	FINALISTS
Sustainability and Ecotourism	Kanu Kapers Australia	Ocean Rafting, Whitsundays Sailing Adventures
Best Transport - Australia	Spaceships Campervans	Jucy Cars & Campers, Stray Australia
Best Transport - New Zealand	Stray New Zealand	Kiwi Experience, Spaceships Rentals New Zealand
Best Backpacker Night - Australia	The Woolshed	Side Bar, Scary Canary
Best Backpacker Night - New Zealand	Loco Cantina	
Best Accommodation NSW	Sydney Harbour YHA	Wakeup! Byron Bay, Base Backpackers Sydney
Best Accommodation NT	Jump Inn Alice Budget Accommodation	Melaleuca On Mitchell
Best Accommodation QLD	Bounce Cairns	Cairns Central YHA, Noosa Flashpackers
Best Accommodation TAS	Hobart Central YHA	The Nook Backpackers, The Pickled Frog Backpackers
Best Accommodation VIC	Grampians Eco YHA	United Backpackers
Best Accommodation WA	Old Swan Barracks	Billabong Backpackers Resort
Best Accommodation - AUSTRALIA	Grampians Eco YHA	Noosa Flashpackers, Sydney Harbour YHA
Best Accommodation - NEW ZEALAND	Pacific Coast Lodge and Backpackers	JUCY Snooze, Haka Lodges
Best Tour/Activity NSW	Surf Camp Australia	Ultimate Adventure Travel, Stray Australia
Best Tour/Activity NT	Crococaurus Cove	Wayoutback Australian Safaris
Best Tour/Activity QLD	Nomads Fraser Island Tours	Ocean Safari, Ocean Rafting
Best Tour/Activity SA	Calypso Star Charters	
Best Tour/Activity TAS	Jump Tours	
Best Tour/Activity VIC	Welcome To Travel	Skydive Australia, Walks 101
Best Tour/Activity WA	Live Ningaloo	Skydive Australia
Best Tour AUSTRALIA (Multi-Day)	Nomads Fraser Island Tours	True Blue Sailing, Prosail Whitsundays

2019 Adventure Tourism Awards Winners cont.

CATEGORY	WINNER	FINALISTS
Best Activity AUSTRALIA (One Day)	Live Ningaloo	Ocean Safari, Ocean Rafting
Best Tour NEW ZEALAND	Stray New Zealand	Haka Tours, Kiwi Experience
Best Activity NEW ZEALAND	Go Orange	JUCY Cruise Milford Sound
Best Online Travel Agent	Bookme	Sailing Whitsundays, TourRadar
Best Travel Agent - Australia	Peterpans Adventure Travel	Travel Up!, Happy Travels
Best Travel Agent - New Zealand	Peterpans Adventure Travel	Happy Travels
Innovation Award	Travello App	Tipi, Got to Get Out
Cultural Tourism Australia	Walkabout Cultural Adventures	Dreamtime Dive and Snorkel, Jarramalli Rock Art Tours
Cultural Tourism New Zealand	Haka Tours	
Best Youth/ Adventure Marketed Destination	Noosa	Whitsundays, Cairns
Young Industry Legend	Andrew Cowan	
Industry Legend	Drew Pearson	

ENDS

Please contact AQ to arrange phone interviews or media enquiries via email: info@adventurequeensland.com.au