



George Souris MP
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing
Minister for the Arts
Minister for the Hunter

Media Release

Saturday 8 February, 2014

NSW DOES IT AGAIN AT THE QANTAS AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS

Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris, has congratulated the New South Wales tourism industry after winning more awards than any other state at this year's Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

NSW tourism businesses and organisations won eight awards and took home eight silvers and five bronze awards.

"This outstanding result proves our tourism industry is delivering world class products and services to people who visit Sydney and NSW," Mr Souris said.

"I am extremely proud that our industry has shone once again by taking out more awards than any other State.

"I was also delighted that the Australian Tourism Legend category was awarded to YHA Australia CEO, Julian Ledger who hails from this State.

"These outstanding results prove the NSW Government's commitment to tourism, which is worth \$27.5 billion annually and supports one in every 24 jobs in the State, is well worth the focus we are putting into this vital industry," Mr Souris said.

Destination NSW CEO, Sandra Chipchase, said "The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards provide the benchmark for best practice within the tourism industry and acknowledge the hard work of individuals and organisations who strive for excellence.

"I look forward to continuing to work with all our partners to achieve our common goal of ensuring NSW maintains its position as the number one tourism and events destination in Australia," she said.

The 2013 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards were announced this evening at a gala celebration at Sydney's Luna Park.

NSW AWARD RECIPIENTS

Gold Awards

Major Tourist Attractions - Taronga Zoo, Sydney

Tourist Attractions - Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo

Heritage and Cultural Tourism - Jenolan Caves: Written In Stone

Indigenous Tourism - Tri State Safaris/Mutawintji Eco Tours, Broken Hill

Adventure Tourism - Life's an Adventure, Sydney

Tourism Education and Training - Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School

Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services - The Corner Restaurant, Port Macquarie

Backpacker Accommodation - Sydney Harbour YHA (Hall of Fame)

Silver Awards

Major Festivals and Events - Byron Bay Bluesfest

Festivals and Events - Deni Blues and Roots Festival, Deniliquin

Business Tourism - Fairmont Resort MGallery, Leura

Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries - Margan Wines, Broke

Hosted Accommodation - Honeycomb Valley Farm – Farmstay, Nabiac

Deluxe Accommodation - Fairmont Resort MGallery, Leura

New Tourism Development - TreeTop Adventure Park Sydney

Local Government Award for Tourism - Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Bronze Awards

Visitor Information and Services – Moree Visitor Information Centre

Tour and/or Transport Operators – Life's an Adventure, Sydney

Destination Marketing – Tourism Southern Highlands

Tourist and Caravan Parks – Nambucca River Tourist Park

Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism – Crystal Creek Meadows Luxury Cottages & Spa Retreat

Other Awards

Australian Tourism Legend - Julian Ledger