

MEDIA RELEASE

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REGION'S BEST TOURISM OPERATORS RECOGNISED AT AWARDS

More than 30 local businesses and individuals were recognised for their outstanding contribution to tourism at last night's annual Whitsunday Tourism Awards.

Over 270 people attended the 'beach glamour-themed' gala event, held at Cape Gloucester Resort at Hideaway Bay, with organisers deeming the night a huge success.

Tourism Whitsundays CEO, Craig Turner, said it was wonderful to see so many tourism operators in attendance to celebrate and reward excellence in tourism across the Whitsundays region.

"It's extremely important that we showcase our tourism products, and recognise those businesses and individuals who are performing at their best," Mr Turner said.

"The awards process provides Whitsunday operators an opportunity to review their business goals and achievements, and establish benchmarks for those new to the industry.

"I'd like to commend all the businesses and individuals who were recognised at last night's Awards, and indeed all of our local operators and their invaluable teams who work tirelessly to ensure the Whitsundays remains a global must-see destination," he said.

Aside from the awards presentation, guests enjoyed an evening of drinks and canapés and live entertainment by Aaliyah Warren (The Voice) and popular local band, Sun Salute.

The event was sponsored by Paradise Outdoor Advertising and Whitsunday Regional Council, along with Lion Nathan, Whitsunday Times, Southern Cross Austereo, TAFE North Queensland, Bendigo Bank, Brisbane Airport Corporation, Graphic House, Interactivink, Angel Signs, Whitsunday Transit, Fraser Ford, and Tourism and Events Queensland.

2016 Whitsunday Tourism Award Recipients were:

CATEGORY	AWARD RECIPIENTS
Major Tourism Attraction	GOLD – Abell Point Marina
Tourism Attraction	GOLD – Airlie Beach Foreshore; Whitsunday Regional Council
Festivals and Events	GOLD – Bowen Offshore Superboat Championships; Bowen Tourism and Business SILVER – Whitsunday Reef Festival
The Steve Irwin Award for Eco Tourism	WINNER – Tall Ship Adventures Derwent Hunter FINALIST – True Blue Sailing
Specialised Tourism	GOLD – Airlie Day Spa
Visitor Information Services	GOLD – Bowen Information Centre
Business Events Venue	GOLD – Events at Coral Sea Resort

Major Tour and Transport Operator	GOLD – Ocean Rafting SILVER – Cruise Whitsundays BRONZE – Air Whitsunday Seaplanes
Tour and Transport Operators	GOLD – Whitsunday Jetski Tours SILVER – Red Cat Adventures
Adventure Tourism	GOLD – Whitsunday Jetski Tours HALL OF FAME – Whitsunday Jetski Tours SILVER – Ocean Rafting
Caravan and Holiday Parks	GOLD – BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday
Unique Accommodation	GOLD – Whitsunday Escape SILVER – True Blue Sailing BRONZE – Cruise Whitsundays; ReefSleep
Self-Contained Accommodation	GOLD – Pinnacles Resort
Deluxe Accommodation	GOLD – Mirage Whitsundays SILVER – Coral Sea Resort
New Tourism	GOLD – Wendy & Corrie’s Airlie Beach Map
Excellence in Food Tourism	GOLD – Party Cakes Whitsunday
Outstanding Contribution by a Volunteer or Volunteer Group	GOLD – Cruise Ship Ambassadors Program SILVER – Collinsville Pit Pony; Bowen Tourism and Business
Young Achievers Award	WINNER – Cherry Muddle
Backpacker Accommodation	GOLD – Magnums Backpackers
Excellence in Sustainable Tourism	GOLD – Whitsunday Segway Tours
Non-Tourism Business	GOLD – Angel Signs SILVER – Brooke Miles Photography
The Bob Porter Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual	WINNER – Greg Waites, Coral Sea Resort

About Us

In the heart of the Great Barrier Reef on Queensland’s coast, the Whitsundays is made up of 74 island wonders in the tropical waters of the Coral Sea.

The Whitsundays is the perfect place to swim and snorkel, or charter a boat and cruise the islands, and witness the diversity of marine life including turtles, dolphins, countless species of fish and thousands of colourful corals.

To find out more about the Whitsundays and to book your next escape, visit www.tourismwhitsundays.com.au

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