

MEDIA RELEASE

11 November 2016

WHITSUNDAYS WINS BIG AT QUEENSLAND TOURISM AWARDS

Twelve Whitsunday tourism operators were recognised and rewarded for their outstanding dedication to the Queensland tourism industry at the 2016 Queensland Tourism Awards, which were held in Brisbane earlier tonight (11 November).

The region received the second highest number of awards throughout the night, equal to Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

The four Gold, four Silver and three Bronze award recipients highlighted the Whitsundays' contribution to the state's \$23 billion tourism industry.

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Craig Turner said he was extremely pleased the region was formally recognised for its exceptional performance at a state level.

"I commend all of our award recipients for their business excellence, their passion to advance their operations, their amazing customer service skills, and their ongoing support of the Whitsundays tourism industry in general.

"This is a wonderful achievement for not only our proud award recipients, but the entire Whitsundays tourism industry.

"To receive such accolades confirms the Whitsundays is well placed for further growth and prosperity for years to come," Mr Turner said.

The 2016 Queensland Tourism Awards Whitsunday award recipients were:

CATEGORY	AWARD	WINNER
The Steve Irwin Award for Ecotourism	Silver	Tall Ship Adventures
Major Tour and Transport Operators	Gold	Ocean Rafting
Major Tour and Transport Operators	Silver	Cruise Whitsundays
Tour and Transport Operators	Silver	Whitsunday Jetski Tours
Adventure Tourism	Bronze	Whitsunday Jetski Tours
Caravan and Holiday Parks	Gold	BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort
Unique Accommodation	Gold	Cruise Whitsundays (Reefsleep)
Unique Accommodation	Silver	Whitsunday Escape Bareboat Holidays
Unique Accommodation	Bronze	Cumberland Charter Yachts
Self-Contained Accommodation	Gold	Pinnacles Resort
Deluxe Accommodation	Bronze	Mirage Whitsundays
The Marie Watson-Blake Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual	Winner	Oatley Family (Hamilton Island)

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All gold winners will now automatically gain entry into the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, which will be held in Darwin on 24 February 2017.

For further information and a full list of award recipients, please visit www.queenslandtourismawards.com.au.

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