



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Tourism's 'best of the best' recognised at awards

The 'best of the best' in tourism were recognised last night with the Whitsundays bringing home 14 trophies from the 2017 Queensland Tourism Awards.

The 2017 Queensland Tourism Awards were held last night (Friday, November 10) at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, recognising Queensland's finest tourism operators.

Whitsunday operators brought home a swag of awards including five Gold, four Silver, three Bronze and two Highly Commended Awards.

In all, the Whitsundays collected the second highest number of awards for one region.

Tourism Whitsundays CEO Craig Turner said it was a wonderful achievement for the award recipients and also the entire Whitsundays tourism industry.

"We are very lucky to have a strong, robust tourism industry in the Whitsundays and when operators like these win awards at state level, it is a sign to the rest of the world just how good our tourism offering is," Mr Turner said.

"I would like to heartily congratulate the winners and also acknowledge every operator who entered, as the awards are a great opportunity to showcase to the world what the Whitsundays can offer in terms of world class tourism experiences."

The Queensland Tourism Awards, which are hosted by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC), cover 30 different categories and recognise the outstanding achievements of operators across the state.

QTIC Chief Executive Daniel Gschwind said the 33rd Queensland Tourism Awards had attracted an outstanding array of tourism operators across all award categories.

"I congratulate the winners of the 28 business, event and individual categories, as well as winners of the inaugural RACQ People's Choice category," he said.

"All operators and individuals have demonstrated excellence in Queensland's thriving tourism industry, which has continued to grow in the past financial year by more than 5.5 per cent, and international visitor numbers for Queensland saw record growth in the 12 months to June 2017, growing 5.6 per cent."

All Gold Award winners from categories 1-25 in the Queensland Awards will now automatically gain entry into the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, due to be held at the new Perth Stadium, in Perth, Western Australia, on Friday, February 23, 2018.

For more information and a full list of award recipients, please visit: www.qtic.com.au

Award-winning Whitsundays operators:

Category	Operator	Award
01. Major Tourist Attraction	Abell Point Marina	Gold
11. Major Tour & Transport Operator	Ocean Rafting	Gold
12. Tour & Transport Operator	Red Cat Adventures	Highly Commended
12. Tour & Transport Operator	Whitsunday Jetski Tours	Bronze
13. Adventure Tourism	Whitsunday Jetski Tours	Highly Commended
13. Adventure Tourism	Red Cat Adventures	Silver
13. Adventure Tourism	Ocean Rafting	Bronze
15. Tourism Restaurants & Catering	Fish D'Vine	Silver
17. Caravan & Holiday Parks	BIG4 Adventure Wsy Resort	Gold (Hall of Fame)
19. Unique Accommodation	Whitsunday Escape	Silver
19. Unique Accommodation	Cumberland Charter Yachts	Gold
20. Self-contained Accommodation	Pinnacles Resort	Silver
22. Deluxe Accommodation	Mirage Whitsundays	Bronze
24. New Tourism Business	Island Jet Boating	Gold

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